

DELHI ☀️ Timings

SUNDAY, OCT. 06

☀️ RISE 06:16 SET 18:02

🌙 RISE 13:43 SET 00:00

MONDAY, OCT. 07

☀️ RISE 06:17 SET 18:01

🌙 RISE 14:29 SET 00:19

TUESDAY, OCT. 08

☀️ RISE 06:17 SET 18:00

🌙 RISE 15:11 SET 01:13

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	33	21
Safdarjang	33	21
Palam	33	20

Delhi Palam Today
32°C A hazy and pleasant morning turns warm day with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C Gradually pollution will increase. Dry and warm weather with partly cloudy sky during day to continue.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	98	Gurgaon	72
Ghaziabad	109	Faridabad	117
Greater Noida	132	Noida	102
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate	
0-50	51-100	101-200	
Poor	Very poor	Severe	
201-300	301-400	>401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

DELHI TODAY

Music: An evening of Sufi, Ghazals and semi classical music by Ghazal exponent Pooja Gaitonde at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Talk: J. Jayaraman will talk about Arunachala Pancharatna at Ramana Kendra, Lodhi Road, 5 p.m.

Exhibition: "Shahar-e-Dilli", a solo photography show by Yajaneekha Arora at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "River Song", sculptural works is fabric by artist Debasish Mukherjee at Akar Prakar Contemporary, D-43 Defence Colony, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: A paintings show by Juhi Shukla at Gallery A, All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, 1, Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Life an Intimate Dialogue", an exhibition by Aradhina Tandon, curated by Gargi Sethi at Shridharani Gallery, Triwani Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityedittor@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

Union Minister to lay foundation stones for 7 projects tomorrow

Dwarka to get two sports complexes, a golf course, cycle track and an 'utsav pandal'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Saturday said Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri will lay down foundation stones for seven projects in Dwarka on October 7.

The projects include sports complexes, a golf course, foot-over bridges (FOBs) and a cycle track. The sports complex coming up in Dwarka Sector 8 will cost ₹66 crore and is likely to be completed in 24 months.

The complex will be a

The sports complex coming up in Dwarka Sector 8 will cost ₹66 crore and is likely to be completed in 24 months

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

centre of excellence for wrestling, weightlifting, boxing, judo and kabaddi, the DDA said in a statement.

"Another sports complex in Dwarka Sector 23 will be a centre of excellence for football. It will be complet-

ed in 24 months at a cost of ₹39 crore," the DDA said.

Dwarka Sector 11 will get a cycle track, which is proposed to be constructed at a cost of ₹9 crore by April 2020.

'Safe crossing facility'

"Mr. Puri will also lay down foundation stones for four FOBs, which will cost a total of ₹12 crore. The projects are likely to be completed by August 2020. The FOBs will provide safe crossing facility to over 16,200 pedestrians every day and will reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic speed,"

said DDA officials.

An 'utsav pandal' is also proposed to be built in Dwarka Sector 10, the urban body said. "This will be a facility for communities to conduct social functions and community activities. The target date of completion of the pandal is June 2020," stated the DDA.

Additionally, a golf course is set to come up in Dwarka Sector 24, officials said. "At a total cost of ₹62 crore, the project is likely to be completed in 24 months. It will be an international golf course with 18 holes," the DDA stated.

Finding Nemo



Catch of the day: Children fishing on the banks of the Yamuna. ■ R. V. MOORTHY

Synthetic track, football ground in renovated sports complex

CM lays foundation stone for revamp project in Pooth Kalan

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal along with his Deputy Manish Sisodia on Friday laid the foundation stone for renovation of a sports complex in Pooth Kalan, which will be carried out at a cost of ₹5.1 crore.

The renovation is expected to be completed in six months and will have a synthetic track and football ground among other facilities.

"The modern renovations will help students and sportspersons prepare for international competitions like long jump, high jump, stipple throw, hammer and discus throw, etc.," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He added that when he campaigned in the villages of Delhi in 2015, many

youths complained that there were not enough sports facilities in the city. "I promised them that if AAP forms a government, we will improve the sports facilities as much as no other government has done in the past 70 years. We have developed a lot of sports facilities here in the last five years. International sports facilities have been developed in the villages across Delhi, including the sports complex in Najafgarh, the football ground in Mundela, and the Najafgarh Stadium," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal also appealed to the students and the people of Delhi to actively play sports for at least an hour in a day.

"I also wish that Delhi wins all the medals for India in the Olympics. The sports facilities here have made this

possible now. Delhi has to beat big medal-winner countries like China, England and Japan in the Olympics to gain respect for India. Whoever can do that, is our responsibility now, the government is with you in this," he said.

Mr. Sisodia said the sports field gave birth to many national players but no government thought of its development.

"When your government was formed in 2015, the players received a very small amount as cash prizes. We have increased it over to three to five times. We planned to help the players when needed. Our government is sponsoring 117 sportspersons from Delhi. We have also initiated the 'KheLo Aur Aage Badho' scheme for students," he said.

CPWD sets up regional design, planning centres

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

To help in the design of its projects, the Central Public Works Department has set up regional design and planning centres across the country.

The centres would cater to the design requirements of their respective regions, an office memorandum issued by the CPWD said on October 3.

These centres would function under the supervision

of the chief architect (planning and design), it said.

The centres would not only cater to the project regions of the CPWD but also the area under the jurisdiction of the additional director general of the said re-

gion, it said.

Over the past few months, the CPWD has been carrying out restructuring of its organisation, including transferring engineers who had been posted at the same locations for years.

Forum tells travel agency to compensate tourists

'Europe trip saw a few glitches due to mismanagement by tour operator'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A district consumer disputes redressal forum here has directed a city-based travel agency to compensate two senior citizens by paying over ₹45,000 each after their Europe trip saw a few glitches due to mismanagement on the part of the tour operator.

While directing Deewan Worldwide Holiday to compensate the complainants, the consumer panel observed: "The complainants, being senior citizens, had ar-

ranged an occasion to visit Europe and visit the Black Forest City, Lake Titisee, etc... the same remained unsatisfactory beside physical and mental harassment."

"It cannot be denied that ailing problems at such senior stage of life usually persisted as also argued by the complainants. In (such a) premise, we feel that the complainants should be suitably compensated and hold the (travel agency) to be deficient in services," the consumer panel stated.

The directions came on a

complaint moved by Sudershan Kumar Dhingra and Sneha Lata Dhingra, in which they said on their journey from Paris to Titisee Lake in Germany, the bus broke down and there was no alternative arrangement.

"It was informed by the travel agency that a big coach was being arranged but they failed. The complainants were served poor quality snacks and tea... Till 10.30 p.m. no alternative bus was arranged and on the protest of the complainants, a private taxi was arranged

to a nearby lodge," read the complaint.

The tour operator had contended that a bus was arranged at night which the complainants along with other members of the group refused to board while demanding compensation.

The consumer panel, however, observed that due to the delay "the scheduled programme was hampered beside the entire day (was consumed) in simply arranging for alternative coach and staying at an unscheduled hotel."

Dastkari Haat Samiti welcomes 90 artisans from across the country

Exhibition celebrates movement started by Gandhi: organisers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Over 90 artisans handpicked by the Dastkari Haat Samiti from remote parts of India have gathered at the IGNC, Janpath to participate at a craft bazaar to pay tribute to the handmade traditions of the country.

The exhibition also pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi who was a supporter of handmade products. This exhibition celebrates that movement, said organisers.

"At a time when fast fashion is at its peak, a show like this brings us back to swadesh and is unapologetic of its rejection of a lifestyle that is not sustainable," said president at Dastkari Haat Samiti, Jaya Jaitly.

"Swadesh was a notion



A woman selling handmade dolls at Dastkari Haat Samiti.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

much supported by Gandhiji. This laid the foundation for village industries and helped the artisans to connect to the consumers. It is with that same zeal that Dastkari Haat Samiti has handpicked craftspeople to help them come to the forefront," Ms. Jaitley said, adding: "Our bazaar honours

the ideology of Gandhi that spoke of the rural crafts. We are also presenting an exhibition where each crafts person has made portraits of Gandhiji."

Some of the crafts include beadwork and *gudia shilp* from Jhabua in MP, wooden comb and paper machie bird from Ujjain in MP, thread jewellery from Uttarakhand, silver jewellery from Rajasthan, weaving, bandani and wood work from Gujarat, embroidery and block from Hardoi, kotpad weaving from Orissa, and many more.

There are 25 hand-crafted images of Gandhi in the bazaar, each one made in different textile craft styles.

The exhibition is on till October 8.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (Imports Section)
Soura, Srinagar, Kashmir - 190011
E-mail: ammoinports@skims.ac.in, Fax No: 0194-2403404

e-NIT No: SIMS-324- NIT 16 (Imports) of 2019
Dated: 03-10-2019

Subject:- Abbreviated Notice Inviting Tenders for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of various Bio- Medical equipments for Cardiology SKIMS.
On behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State through Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar, e-tenders are invited from the original manufacturers/their Indian subsidiaries/Indian Agents on the authorization of principal manufacturers /Indian Subsidiary if 100% subsidiary of foreign principals (for imported equipment) and manufacturers /their authorized dealers for the J&K State (for indigenous equipment) for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of following Bio-Medical equipments:

Group	Name of Item	Qty	Tender Fee	EMD
A	Flat Panel Digital Cardiac Cath Lab with 3D Imaging & accessories.	01 No.	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 11,00,000/-
B	OCT, ACR, RFR/IFR Combo System.	01 No.	Rs.3000/-	Rs. 2,00,000/-
C	Transport Ventilators	02 No.	Rs.1000/-	Rs. 12,000/-
D	Patient Monitors	06 No.	Rs.2000/-	Rs. 24,000/-
E.	Transport Monitors	02 No.	Rs.1000/-	Rs. 8,000/-
F.	Defibrillators	06 No.	Rs.2000/-	Rs. 60,000/-
G.	Single Chamber Temporary external Pacemaker	06 No.	Rs.1000/-	Rs. 15,000/-

The detailed tender document is available on www.jktenders.gov.in& on SKIMS website www.skims.ac.in & the NIT schedule is as per following.

Last date for submission of online bids	06.11.2019 upto 4:00 PM
Opening of Technical bids	13.11. 2019 at 12:30 PM

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tendering portal www.jktenders.gov.in& the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.
No: SIMS-324-NIT 16 (Imports) 2019-4156-63-3636-39
Dated: 03 /10/2019
Sd/-
Asstt. Materials Management Officer (Imports)
For & on behalf of
Chief of Materials Management

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CENTRAL STORE
B-2 Block, Near 212 Bus Terminal, Nand Nagari, Delhi -110093
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. EE(Central Store)/TC/2019-20/08 Dated : 04,10,2019
Executive Engineer (Central Store) EDMC on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites Online open tenders from reputed agencies/firms/contractors [Registered/Un-Registered firms/agencies are also eligible] for the following work :

S. No.	Name of Work	Head of A/c	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Tender No.
1.	Engagement of consultant for Swachh Bharat Mission & Swachh Survekshan-2020 under the jurisdiction of East Delhi Municipal Corporation.	XL-III-D-IV	40,000/-	03 Months	316726
2.	Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of 40 nos. of Water Sprinkler mounted on TATA SE 1613 9KL Water Tanker, for Water Sprinkling in EDMC.	XL-III-D-IV	2,20,000/-	04 Months	316727

Tender Amount : Item Rate each, for both the above works; Tender Cost: Rs. 1,000/- each, for both the above works
The Complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender are available on Website <http://mcdetenders.com/common/home.asp> & www.mcdonline.gov.in or can be obtained from the office of undersigned. Bidders willing to submit technical / financial bid through E-tendering and who are not registered with the EDMC / MCD for e-tendering shall have to get registered themselves with the EDMC / MCD for obtaining a temporary ID, by paying necessary fees through DD and submitting necessary documents to concerned authorities of E-tendering.
Any clarification may be sounded to undersigned on E-Mail ID: eecentralstore35@gmail.com.
R.O. No. 62/DPI/East/2019-20 Executive Engineer (Central Store/EDMC)
EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. : 155303

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer Shimla Division No. III, HPPWD Shimla-3.
Web: www.hppwd.gov.in Email: ee-sml3-hp@nic.in Phone/ Fax No.: 0177-2652832.

"NOTICE INVITING TENDER"
Sealed item rate tenders on form No. 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No. III, H.P.PWD, Shimla-3 on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from the eligible Contractors/Firms enlisted in H.P.PWD, so as to reach in his office on or before **26-10-2019** up to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of the intending Contractors/Firms or their authorized representatives. The tender form can be had from his office against cash payment (non-refundable) on any working day up to 4.00 P.M. on **25-10-2019** and the application for issue of tender form shall be received up to 4.00 P.M. on **24-10-2019**.
The earnest money in the shape of National saving Certificate/Time deposit account/saving account in any of the post office in HP, duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-III must accompany with the application form for the tender offer. Conditional tender and the tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason there to. Other conditions are applicable as per form No. 6&8. The offer shall remain open for 90 days.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time	Form No	Cost of form
1.	S/R to Minister House No.3,4,5 at Grant Lodge Shimla (SH:- C/O pedestal for water storage tanks).	Rs. 2,70,089/-	Rs. 5,410/-	One Month.	6&8	350/-
2.	S/R to State Museum building at Chaura Maidan Shimla-4 (SH:- Renovation of toilet in ground floor).	Rs. 4,12,103/-	Rs. 8,250/-	One Month.	6&8	350/-
3.	Furnishing of Ellerslie main building at HP Sectt. Chotla Shimla(SH:-	Rs. 1,86,406/-	Rs. 3,730/-	One Month.	6&8	350/-
4.	S/R to Dispensary Block Set No.28 at Barnes Court Shimla(SH:- P/F Cupboards, wood work, eaves board, roofing, painting and Distempering etc.).	Rs. 1,29,932/-	Rs. 2,600/-	One Month.	6&8	350/-

Terms & Conditions:-

- The contractor/firm shall have his GST No. and attested copy of the same be attached with the application for issue of tender form.
- The contractor/firm should attach attested copy of registration/renewal.
- Copy of PAN card be attached with the application form.

HP/2348/19-20 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that that accused person **Deepak Bagga, S/o: Late Sh. Krishan Lal Bagga, R/o: (1) 1, Pusa Road, New Delhi (2) 33 Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi and (3) E-27, 2nd Floor, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 127/2018 dated 04.05.2018 U/s 420/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Patel Nagar, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Deepak Bagga** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Deepak Bagga** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Deepak Bagga** accused of **FIR No. 127/2018 dated 04.05.2018 U/s 420/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Patel Nagar, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court or to me to answer the said complaint on or before **08.11.2019**.

By Order

Ms. Bhawani Sharma,
Assistant Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
West Distt., Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/211/EOW/19

DCW claims 5,000 spas in city, civic bodies say only 498

Panel suspects sex racket operations, issues notices to portal for complete list

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Saturday claimed that there are more than 5,000 spa centres operating in the Capital, while the count provided by the three civic bodies is 498.

Following information received from online listings firm Justdial, the women's panel issued fresh notices to the portal and sought a complete list by October 17.

'Conflicting count'

The count provided by the portal is "completely contrary" to that given by the civic bodies, the DCW said.

"While the company [Justdial] has informed about the approximate number of spas operating in the city, it has sought six weeks' time to collate the data. Further, they



Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal during a raid at a spa in Burari last month. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

have stated that they are checking their internal policies and taking necessary approvals for providing the data as it may include 'sensitive personal information'," read a statement issued by the commission.

The women's panel said that it "strongly disagreed" with the fact that the data is "personal" and said the details are "crucial to unearth sex rackets" operating in the city.

Earlier, the women's com-

mission had conducted inspections of spa centres across the city while alleging that sex rackets were being operated from the premises of various centres.

"The DCW has instituted an inquiry in the matter of illegal spas flourishing in the Capital and running prostitution rackets. It is obvious that thousands of spa and massage centres are operating illegally in the city," the statement read.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said, "Till date no advisory has been issued by any municipal body against cross-gender massage... the licensing mechanism is a complete farce and on site inspections are also not carried out. Strongest action should be taken against such illegal spa centres running in the Capital."

A new look



Big project: Redevelopment work in full swing at the Pragati Maidan exhibition complex. •SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Govt. to deploy 100 more machines to clean sewers

Each machine costs ₹40.16 lakh

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said 100 more automated jet sewer sucking machines will be deployed to clean sewers in the city.

Financial assistance to successful bidders belonging to safai karamcharis for operating the machines in collaboration with the Delhi Jal Board has also been approved by the government. Earlier, the government had already deployed 200 such machines.

"Decision is being taken after seeing the success of earlier machines. By de-

ploying the machines, the regular cleaning is done. The complaints of sewer blockages have come down," an official statement said.

The cost of machine is ₹40.16 lakh and the Delhi SC/ST/OBC/Minorities Handicapped Financial and Development Corporation (DSFDC) has been providing financial assistance of ₹5 lakh to people from SC, other backward classes, minorities, safai karmchari and differently abled persons.

There is facility to get up to ₹35 lakh loan for the machine.

Sanitation force to clean Hindon river

It is clogged by water hyacinths: DM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD

The Ghaziabad district administration will constitute a sanitation force to clean up the Hindon river, a senior official said on Saturday. Ghaziabad District Magistrate (DM) Ajay Shankar Pandey said the river has been polluted due to lack of maintenance.

The river banks, which had been renovated earlier, are in a dilapidated condition now, he said.

A sanitation force will be constituted for cleaning the river. Local residents can also be a part of it, he added.

Mr. Pandey said that the heads of irrigation department, municipal corporation and civil defence have been instructed to chalk out a plan for cleaning the river.

He said the stretch of the Hindon river between railway over-bridge and NH-58 has been clogged by water hyacinths.

The irrigation department has been ordered to purchase the necessary equipment to weed out the water hyacinths, he added.

The DM said the civil defence will also help in cleaning the river.

Man injured in scuffle in Rajouri Garden

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A man was injured in a scuffle between two parties in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden on Saturday.

Suraj, a resident of Raghubir Nagar, sustained a head injury, said the police. We received information about the incident around 5 p.m., a senior police officer said.

After reaching the spot, it was found that Suraj and his father Dhruv Chand Pathak got into a scuffle with Shiv Charan and his son at a shop in Raghubir Nagar over a money dispute, the officer said.

The injured is undergoing treatment at Guru Gobind Singh Hospital, the police said. Shiv Charan is absconding.

Two booked for threatening U.P. irrigation dept. officials in Noida

They had objected to illegal construction of farmhouses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Two persons have been booked for allegedly threatening Uttar Pradesh government officials who had objected to illegal construction of farmhouses along the Yamuna floodplains here, the police said on Saturday.

The case was registered at the Expressway police station on a complaint lodged by two irrigation department officials, they said.

The incident took place when the officials had gone for an inspection at Nagla Nagli village on September 11, the police said.

"The irrigation department officials had objected to illegal construction of farmhouses along the Yamu-

na floodplains in line with the NGT and UP government orders which ban construction in the flood-prone area," Station House Officer Bhunesh Kumar said.

"The officials got the work stopped. When they were leaving, they were intercepted by the accused, Nitin Tyagi and Saurabh Tyagi, who were in an SUV. Saurabh and Nitin abused the two government officials and threatened to kill them if they returned to the area," he said.

The accused later threatened them over phone as well, he added.

Both the accused work for Dinesh Tyagi and Deepak Tyagi, the developers of the farmhouses in the area, Kumar told PTI.

AAP's JJ Cell in-charge Sushil Chauhan joins BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In a setback to the ruling AAP in Delhi, its JJ Cell in-charge Sushil Chauhan joined BJP on Saturday.

Mr. Chauhan had made news earlier after a video purportedly showing him attacking Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow during Lok Sabha polls in May went viral on social media network.

A video of Mr. Chauhan along with other AAP workers at a meeting was posted on the social media to claim that Mr. Kejriwal's attacker belonged to his own party. The AAP leadership, including Mr. Kejriwal, however, had blamed the BJP for the attack.

Mr. Chauhan said he was pained to quit AAP which he had joined with "expectations" to work for jhuggi-jhopdi cluster residents.

"I am, however, happy that my eyes opened in time as I realised AAP and Mr. Kejriwal did nothing for slums and its residents in five years. I hope now that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari, I will be able to serve them and fulfil their needs," he said at a press conference.

Mr. Tiwari said it was sad that JJ Cluster people who had supported Mr. Kejriwal were still deprived of basic needs like houses and water supply. He assured Mr. Chauhan that the the BJP will always respect them.

Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta, Delhi BJP vice-president Abhay Verma, media relations head Neelkant Bakshi, former MLA Anil Bajpai, and party's JJ Cell convener Umesh Verma were also present on the occasion.

Purvanchal focus: AAP declares holiday on Chhath Puja

Number of chhath ghats up from 72 to 1,200, says govt.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has granted the long-pending demand of people from purvanchal of a holiday during Chhath Puja.

It also said the government has increased the number of chhath ghats from 72 to 1,200. Also, Jitender Bansal, national coordinator of OBC cell of AICC, joined AAP on Friday, the party said.

On Friday, AAP had announced that it will conduct public meetings at 300 polling stations with over 50% people from purvanchal (Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) from October 6 to November 20. AAP MP and party Delhi Assembly polls in-charge Sanjay Singh will lead this "Aap-purvanchal" campaign.

"The government has laid new sewer lines in around 500 colonies, constructed roads and spent more than 1000 crores in development projects in unauthorised colonies inhabited by purvanchali people," Mr. Singh said.



The purvanchal community has been demanding a holiday on Chhath Puja for a long time. •FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Earlier this month, Mr. Kejriwal's comment on Delhi's limitation on providing treatment to everyone in the country, giving an example of a person from purvanchal (Bihar), had become controversial with BJP demanding his apology for "insulting" people from purvanchal.

"One person from Bihar buys a ticket to Delhi for ₹500, returns after availing free treatment worth ₹5 lakh. While it makes us happy as

they are people of our own country but Delhi has its own capacity. How can Delhi cater to people of entire country? So, there is a necessity that situation improves across the country," the Chief Minister had said.

When asked whether the purvanchal push was due to this, Mr. Singh, "We had done a similar campaign in 2015 and we will be launching similar campaigns targeting minorities and SC/ST."

Branded

T.SHIRT SALE

upto 60% off

Introducing huge range of **Shorts & Lowers**

By Economy Sales: 23539218

ARROW

ColorPlus SMARTCASUALS

PARK AVENUE

Raymond

- PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL

Before selling a car, motorcycle or scooter, check the credentials of buyer.

Report any suspicious activity in your area.

Do not rent out your premises to unverified persons.

Insist on identification of papers before booking a room of a guest house.

IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME & TERRORISM

DO NOT TOUCH UNCLAIMED OBJECTS.

CALL 1090
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS

Email to CP, Delhi at: cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in

IN BRIEF

Driver held for theft of ₹1.5 lakh at IGIA
NEW DELHI
A driver of a cab aggregating company, Liyakat Ali, has been arrested for allegedly stealing a passenger's bag containing ₹1.5 lakh after dropping him to IGI Airport. DCP (IGI Airport) Sanjay Bhatia said Vaibhav Sinha working with a pharmacy company in Gurugram reported the matter after which the driver's details were sought from the cab company and he was nabbed. The bag has been recovered, the police added.

Wanted criminal held after police encounter
GHAZIABAD
A man wanted in over 20 cases was arrested here after an exchange of fire with police, an official said on Saturday. Anmol, resident of Mandola in Bhojpur, and his accomplice were on a motorcycle on Friday night when they were flagged down by a police team in Indirapuram. The duo opened and tried to speed away, but in retaliatory firing, a bullet hit Anmol's leg and the two fell off their motorcycle. Anmol was arrested and rushed to a hospital, but his accomplice managed to flee.

Man celebrates his birthday after killing student, arrested

His brother-in-law has also been nabbed in connection with the case: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 35-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing his student in north-east Delhi's Karawal Nagar, the police said on Saturday.
DCP Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) Ved Prakash Surya said that Naushad Ali (35) and his brother-in-law Rafiq alias Samir (28) had dumped the body in a drain.
On September 29, at 7.45 a.m., a PCR call was received regarding a body found floating in a drain near Sardar Patel School, the police said. On reaching the spot, the police took the decomposed body of a woman aged around 25 years to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital for post-mortem. A case on charges of murder and causing the disappearance of evidence was registered, an officer said.
During investigation, the police tried to identify the



The accused in police custody on Saturday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

woman for which door to door survey was conducted in the area and informers were deployed.
On September 2, the woman was identified as a 24-year-old resident of Shastri Park and was reported missing from her residence since September 26. The family also identified the body.
“When the victim's her call detail records were examined, Naushad who lived nearby, came out as the prime suspect and was

picked up for questioning,” Mr. Surya said.
He then confessed to the crime, the police added.
‘Victim wanted to marry’
“The accused said he runs a tuition centre and the woman was his student since Class 10. After completing her studies, she also joined the centre. The two were in a relationship but she was feeling ignored. The accused said she wanted to marry him and they had constant fights after which he decided to kill her,” Mr. Surya said.
A senior officer said on September 26 at 7 p.m., the woman came to the centre and an argument ensued between the two after which he hit her with a blunt object and she became unconscious. Thinking she had died, he put her body in a sack and kept it in the centre.
On September 27, which was Naushad's birthday, the accused stepped out of the centre to celebrate.
“He then called Rafiq and narrated the incident to him. He asked Rafiq to help with dumping the body who then brought a vehicle after which the two dumped the body in the drain on September 27,” the officer said.
Next, Naushad celebrated his birthday and even accepted wishes. Sources said Naushad was engaged to be married to one of his students and did not want to be with the victim.

Couple arrested for embezzling over ₹90 lakh from company

Accused was an accountant in the firm for the past 10 years

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 35-year-old man and his wife have been arrested for allegedly embezzling ₹92 lakh from a firm where he was working as an for the last 10 years, the police said on Saturday.
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) S.D Mishra said Amit Gaur, an MBA, and his wife Renu (34), are both residents of Bhajanpura.
The police said they received a complaint from the owners of a firm, which deals in coated fabric in Rithala, stating that their Amit quit recently without handing over the charge to anyone.
The company then employed another accountant and while going through the financial records, they saw a long list of debtors and contacted them.
Due payment
“When complainant contacted the clients about their due payment, they informed



The accused (second from right) in police custody on Saturday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dence from the victim and the bank concerned. The trails of money transactions were established which confirms the transfer of about ₹92 Lakh in the alleged account opened by accused persons, the police said.
The accused were then arrested and it was revealed that they have purchased a property at Bhajanpura and a car using the cheated amount, the police said, adding that they had transferred about ₹15 lakh in the account of a co-accused Mukesh Vashist, who is absconding.
The police then registered a case at Budh Vihar police station and collected evi-

Child rights panel member latest snatching victim

‘Officer said such incidents occur regularly’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A member of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) became the recent victim of snatching near her residence in Rohini's Prashant Vihar on Friday morning.
Jyoti Rathee said at 9.15 a.m., she was returning to her apartment on her scooter when two bike-borne men tried to snatch her gold chain with a locket. She also alleged that there were two more men, whom she suspects to be part of the same gang.
Ms. Rathee said she thought that the accused were asking for directions. When the incident happened, the accused pushed her but she held onto the locket. The accused managed to snatch the chain but

the locket remained with her. She has sustained minor injuries on her hand and neck.
Ms. Rathee immediately went to a police station to lodge a complaint but was allegedly told by an officer that such incidents occur regularly and registered an e-FIR in the matter under Section 379 (punishment for theft) of the IPC. She claims to have given the officer a CCTV footage of the incident. DCP (Rohini) S.D. Mishra said Ms. Rathee's statement has been recorded and sections of robbery have been added. “Disciplinary action is being taken against the officer who attended the complainant at the police station and registered e-FIR,” he said. The victim said incidents of snatchings and robberies are on a rise in the area and there are no police patrolling vans.

Ravana customised



Artistes work on an effigy of Ravana ahead of Dussehra celebrations in west Delhi's Subhash Nagar. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Arrested for snatching, accused confess to murder

Victim's body found in Yamuna Khadar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Six persons were arrested for allegedly killing their friend over personal enmity in Shahdara's Geeta Colony, the police said on Saturday.
The accused were initially arrested for their involvement in cases of robbery and snatching but allegedly confessed to the murder, they said.
The police said the local staff of Geeta Colony police station was informed that a few boys were sitting in a park near SDM office and are suspected to have been involved in cases of robbery and snatching. On reaching the spot, they conducted a search when a loaded country-made with live cartridge was recovered from the possession of one of the accused person.

While being interrogated on their previous involvements, one of the accused disclosed about killing a man along with his associates on Sunday night. He also said they later dumped the body at Yamuna Khadar, a senior officer said.
On their instance, a decomposed body was recovered from Yamuna Khadar following which a murder case was registered at Geeta Colony police station. The deceased was missing from his home and no complaint was filed by his family members, they said.
During investigation, two more persons were arrested; one of who disclosed that he had personal enmity with deceased due to which he planned the killing with his associates on September 29.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR KASHMIR BUREAU OF INFORMATION

5-Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi, Ph.: 011- 24611217, 24692393
Fax: 24628995 Email: directordeputy74@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE

The Kashmir Bureau of Information, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 5-Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi intends to print Coffee Table Book basis on the content being provided by Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. In order to discuss the modus operandi and technicalities involved in the matter, besides the specifications a Pre-Bid Meeting of Empanelled offset printers by Bureau of Outreach and Communication, Ministry of I&B (Publicity Wing) is to be held on **9th of October, 2019**. Accordingly, the concerned and interested Empanelled Publishers / Printers are requested to attend the **Pre-Bid meeting at 2:30 P.M. at Conference Room, J&K Guest House, Kautaliya Marg, Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi**.

Deputy Director Information
No. KBI/Advt/1846-49/2019 Kashmir Bureau of Information, New Delhi
Date: 05.10.2019 **Mobile No: 9888918303**

Government of Himachal Pradesh Department of Information and Public Relations

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed manufacturer or their authorized dealer for Professional Studio Prompter Size 19 inches alongwith accessories with following specifications:

Panel Dimensions: 37x44x4.5 cm
Resolution: 1280x1024 or Higher
Contrast ratio: 1000:1 or Higher
Viewing Angle: 170/160
Reading range: 7 meters
Aspect Ratio: 4:3/16:9
Video Inputs: Composite (BNC), HDMI, VGA

The tender should reach in the Office of the **Director, Inf. and Public Relations, Suchana Bhawan, Near Majitha House, Shimla-2, Himachal Pradesh, by 31st October 2019 up to 2 P.M.**, which will be opened on the same day at 3:00 P.M. in the presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives, whoseever, will be present. The tender document alongwith terms and conditions may be downloaded from the departmental website **www.himachalpr.gov.in**. The tenderer will have to submit a bank draft of Rs. 500/- alongwith the quotation as the cost of the tender form otherwise the tender may be liable for rejection.

No. I&PR-H(F) 7-4/2013
“HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPRAK”
HP/2354/19-20

Four injured as bus rams three vehicles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Four persons suffered severe injuries when a DTC bus hit three vehicles in Hari Nagar on Saturday. A police officer said that the bus driver, Anil, has been arrested.
The police said that around 9 p.m., the DTC bus hit three two-wheelers, including two motorcycles and one scooter, injuring four people.
The injured were rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where they are undergoing treatment.
“The bus was coming from Delhi Cantonment side and going towards Uttam Nagar,” the officer said. A case has been lodged and further probe is under way.

Defaulter to spend six months in jail in cheque bounce case

Borrower had failed to repay even after issuance of legal notice

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Sessions Court here has dismissed an appeal by a man challenging a sub-ordinate court judgment awarding him six months of imprisonment and fining ₹10 lakh in a cheque bounce case to be paid to the complainant.
Additional Sessions Judge Gorakh Nath Pandey dismissed his appeal, saying that he failed to rebut the presumption that he had issued a cheque to the complainant to repay a loan of ₹7 lakh.
The convict was a friend of the complainant and had taken the loan for a short period at 5% interest per year. At the time of the transfer of the loan, the convict had issued a cheque for

repayment. But when the loaner presented it to the bank concerned, it was dishonoured with the “insufficient funds” comment.
When the borrower failed to repay even after issuance of a legal notice, the loaner moved the court under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
‘Ensure repayment’
In the appeal, the convict argued that the complainant had misused the cheque as it was issued to him as a security to ensure repayment of the loan.
The loaner presented the cheque for encashment even after he had paid him more amount than due.
However, the Judge dismissed his submission, stat-

ing that he had issued the cheque for repayment of the loan, and the Metropolitan Magistrate court correctly made such a presumption and held him guilty. “This court finds that the appellant/convict had failed to rebut the presumptions under Section 118 and 139 of NI Act and his defence is found to be improbable, baseless and perfunctory. As a result, it is concluded that there is no illegality or infirmity in the impugned judgment of the trial court and thus, it does not require any interference by this court. Accordingly, the judgment and order on sentence are upheld. In view of the above, the appeal stands dismissed, the Judge said.

Two phone snatchers held after police encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Two alleged mobile phone snatchers were arrested here after an exchange of gunfire with police, an official said on Saturday.
The accused were held around 11.30 p.m. on Friday after an encounter near Sandeep Paper Mill in Sector 6, the police said.
Both the accused are residents of Pandav Nagar in Delhi and multiple snatched mobile phones were recovered from their possession, a police spokesperson said.
“Nobody was injured in the gunfight but the duo arrested and their illegal firearms along with ammunition seized,” the spokesperson said.

Multiple cases
The official said Rajveer Singh and Suraj Kumar were behind at least nine recent incidents of mobile snatching in the area and have multiple criminal cases, including those registered against them under the Arms Act and sections of the Indian Penal Code for attempted murder.
A fresh case has been registered against them and the accused have been remanded in judicial custody by a local court, the spokesperson said.
In a separate case on Friday afternoon, the Noida Police had arrested a snatcher fleeing with his accomplice on a motorcycle after snatching a woman's gold chain.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
O/o Controller of Communication Accounts,
UP (West) Telecom Circle,
Brahmpuri Telecom Building, Meerut-250002
Visit us at: ccaupwest.gov.in
No.CCA/UP (W)/Admin / Deputation/Dlgs/2019-20 Dt.: 30.09.2019

Grade	7th Pay commission pay Matrix Level	No. of Vacancies	Place of Posting	Last date to receive application
Accounts Officer (Gr. 'B'-Gazetted)	Level-9 (53100-167800)	03	Meerut-250002	25-10-2019

For detailed Notification & Eligibility criteria etc. please visit the website: ccaupwest.gov.in

Ph. No. 0121-2513400

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: SG/DSE/IT/OT/07/19

Description : Remarks : S.N.1 Name of work with its location : Provision of Integrated Passenger Information System (IPIS) at Platforms at SSM in connection with " Commissioning of EI with yard remodelling to provide connectivity with DFCIL lines and surface crossing, arrangement at SSM Junction station ". 2. Approx. Cost of the work : Rs./ 2,12,91,178.00/- (Rs. Two Crore Twelve Lakh Ninety One Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight only.). 3. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 2,56,500/- (Rs. Two Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred only). 4. Closing date & time for Submission of e-tendering: 25/10/2019 up to 12.30 Hrs. 5. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen etc. : www.reps.gov.in

Asst. Signal & Telecom Engineer

E.C.Railway, Mughalsarai

PR/01368/MGS/S&T/7/19-20/32

Court permits SIT to collect voice samples

SIT wants samples of Chinmayanand, law students, 3 youths

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR**
A local court on Saturday permitted the Special Investigation Team to collect voice samples of former Union Minister Chinmayanand and the law student who accused him of raping her.

The SIT had on Thursday moved an application for collecting their voice samples, besides those of three youths who were charged with demanding extortion from the BJP leader.

After hearing the counsels, Chief Judicial Magistrate Omvir Singh, who had reserved his order on Friday, gave permission to take the five of them to Lucknow for the purpose.

The law student's counsel Anoop Trivedi said he and others had objected to the application seeking per-



Former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand.
• FILE PHOTO

mission to collect the samples, saying that if required, it should have been sought within the stipulated time of 15 days.

Meanwhile, BJP leader and former MLC Jayesh Prasad on Saturday held a press conference, accusing the top Congress leadership of hatching a conspiracy to de-

The Congress has been working on a plan for the past few months to defame the Yogi government

JAYESH PRASAD
BJP leader and former MLC

fame the Yogi Adityanath government in connection with the case. "The top leadership of the Congress has been working on a plan for the past few months to defame the government. I have proof to prove my point," said Mr. Prasad, who is the cousin of Congress leader and former Union Minister Jitin Prasada.

'Congress tool'
Responding to a question, Mr. Prasad said his cousin was a "tool" of the Congress.

Colours of life



Children participating in a rangoli contest during the Wildlife Week at the Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal on Saturday.
• A.M. FARUQUI

'Govt. entitled to copy of CBI closure report'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MOHALI**

A CBI court here on Saturday directed the Special Magistrate to supply a certified copy of the closure report filed by the agency in the sacrilege incidents of the Guru Granth Sahib to the Punjab government.

Special CBI Judge Nirbhaw Singh overruled a Special Judicial Magistrate's July 23 order dismissing the Punjab government's application for supply of the closure report.

The Judge directed the Special Magistrate to supply the documents to the State, Advocate General Atul Nanda said in an official release.

The CBI had on July 4 this year filed the closure report in a special CBI court here, giving a clean chit to the accused in the three incidents of desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in 2015 in Faridkot.

SGPC not an Akali Dal body: Sukhbir Badal

'Congress is indulging in politics over Guru Nanak's 550th birth celebrations'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DERA BABA NANAK (GURDASPUR)**

Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday said the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee is a democratically elected body and not an organisation of the SAD.

Mr. Badal has been facing flak from the ruling Congress which dubbed the apex gurdwara body as a "tool" in his party's hands.

'New history'

He also hit out at the Congress government in Punjab over the issue of 550th birth celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, asking the ruling party not to "create a new history" while asserting that religious functions had always been organised by the SGPC.

"The SGPC is not an organisation of the Akali Dal. It is an organisation of Sikh 'panth' (community) and it is a democratically elected body," Mr. Badal told the media here.

"There is no need for do-



Sukhbir Badal and Harsimrat Kaur Badal reviewing the work at the Kartarpur Corridor on Saturday. • PTI

ing politics. The government has its own job to do while religious body has its own. Ever since the SGPC came into being, all the religious programmes had been organised by it (sic)," he said.

"The Congress should not try to create a new history in this regard," he added.

Last month, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had described the SGPC as a "tool" in the hands of the Akali Dal. State Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa had accused SGPC chief Gobind

Singh Longowal of being a "puppet in the hands of the Badal family".

Both the Punjab government and the SGPC had been at loggerheads over joint celebrations of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak next month.

The SGPC has decided to hold the main event in a stadium near Gurdwara Ber Sahib in Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala district on November 12 while the State government wants the function to be held near a "Tent

City" coming up there.

Mr. Randhawa, who is the State government's representative in the SGPC coordination panel for finalising the celebrations programme, had expressed his annoyance for ignoring the State government in extending invitation to the President and the Prime Minister for the same.

Mr. Badal said the Congress was "indulging in politics" on the issue. He said he was thankful that the Kartarpur Corridor had finally come up after decades of efforts, including representations made by former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal to successive Prime Ministers.

He said the Corridor as well as events associated with the 550th 'Parkash Purb' of Guru Nanak Dev should not be politicised.

"There is no need for anyone to get into a credit war as the Guru Nanak Naam Leva Sangat is aware of everything," he said.

Nutrition Mission benefits 7,700 children

Their health is being monitored through anganwadi centres in Rajasthan

**MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR**

The second phase of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) has benefited 7,712 children in 20 districts of Rajasthan by bringing them out of malnutrition. The children's health is being monitored through anganwadi centres, while the community participation has been encouraged in the malnutrition management programme.

A workshop on NNM organised here over the week-end discussed the plans for health screening of children and connecting the children with severe acute malnutrition with the mission. Na-

3.75 lakh children have been screened and 10,344 of them connected with NNM in the second phase

N.K. THAKRAL
National Health Mission's State Director

tional Health Mission's State Director N.K. Thakral said 3.75 lakh children had been screened and 10,344 of them connected with NNM in the second phase.

About 70% of the identified children have come out of the vicious cycle of malnutrition, while the development partner agencies,

Community Health Centre officials and anganwadi workers actively participated in the efforts to improve the health and nutrition status in the specific areas in 20 districts.

Experts attending the workshop said the State government had promoted the activities of NNM in a big way to tackle malnourishment among children and utilised the resources to ensure children's healthcare and access to nutrition services. The budgetary allocations were being spent in a transparent manner to achieve the targets of nutrition.

K.K. Pathak, Secretary,

Women and Child Development Department, said new research would be undertaken for finding out food supplements which could provide better nutrition. A prudent use of food material provided by nature could resolve the issue of malnutrition among toddlers, he said.

UNICEF-Rajasthan chief Isabelle Bardem said the tasks undertaken in two phases of NNM had achieved impressive results in the State and various agencies and government departments had worked together to improve nutrition levels among the children.



NAPM team members (from left) Prafulla Samantara, Faisal Khan and Sandeep Pandey in Delhi on Saturday. • R.V. MOORTHY

Activists sent back from Srinagar airport

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

The Budgam district administration detained a National Alliance of People's Movements delegation at the Srinagar airport on Friday and sent it back to New Delhi. The decision was taken in view of a threat to law and order in the Valley.

The notice issued from the Budgam District Magistrate office referred to "credible inputs" from various agencies that they intended to organise protests against the withdrawal of special status from Jammu and Kashmir.

Refuting these claims, delegation members including

Prafulla Samantara of the Lok Shakti Abhiyan, Odisha, Sandeep Pandey of the Socialist Party (India), Faisal Khan of the Khudai Khidmatgar, Delhi and Mustafa Mohamed of the Khudai Khidmatgar, Kerala, said here on Saturday that they had gone on a two-day visit to meet the people and find out the hardships they were facing.

"Why should the government have to maintain the clampdown even two months after the decision taken to abrogate Article 370 and 35A as well as division of State of J&K into two parts?" stated an NAPM release.

Junior doctors strike work in Bhopal hospital

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL**

Junior doctors at the State-run Hamidia Hospital in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh struck work on Saturday demanding arrest of a man who allegedly molested and robbed one of their colleagues.

An unidentified person entered the hostel room of a doctor through the window and molested, threatened

and robbed her, said M.P. Junior Doctors' Association president Sachet Saxena.

"If the police does not catch the culprit in 24 hours, we will launch a protest across the State," he said.

The stir, in which over 300 junior doctors and around 1,000 under-graduates are taking part, has affected services, admitted a hospital official.

APPOINTMENT



FACULTY AND STAFF RECRUITMENT

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

PROFESSORS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

SENIOR RESIDENTS

For the following departments (as per MCI Norms)

PRE & PARA CLINICAL

Anatomy, Physiology, Bio-Chemistry, Pathology, Microbiology, Forensic Medicine, Pharmacology, Community Medicine.

CLINICAL

General Medicine, Pediatrics, TB & Chest, Psychiatry, Dermatology, General Surgery, Orthopaedics, ENT, Ophthalmology, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Radio Diagnosis.

Walk-in Interview
Date : 9th to 13th October 2019
Time : 9 am to 6 pm

Eligible candidate may walk-in for an interview at Bhaarith Medical College and Hospital, 173, Agaram Main Road, Selaiyur, Chennai 600073 along with their resumé, photograph, Aadhaar Card (Original & Copies of Certificate) on the mentioned date/time.

Candidates those who are unable to attend this walk-in interview can share their resume within 10 days to : **hr@bmch.ac.in**

REGISTRAR

Bapu in our heartbeats Chhattisgarh imbibing Gandhi



Imported nationalism depends upon dividing the people and disregarding any kind of disagreement. Mahatma Gandhi's nationalism is the idea of unity and integrity of the nation.

Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

- A resolution to follow the path of Mahatma Gandhi was passed in a special session of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly held on 2-3 October, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 5 important schemes- Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyaan, Chief Minister Haat-bazaar Clinic Scheme, Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme, Universal PDS Scheme and Chief Minister Ward Office Scheme were launched in the assembly premises. Various new initiatives for public welfare were also announced on the occasion.
- Thousands of children took out 'Prabhat Pheri' on the theme of 'Bachcha-Bachcha Gandhi' on the occasion of 'Gandhi Jayanti'.
- With the inauguration of 'Nahar Satyagrah Sthal Memorial Inscription', a weeklong 'Gandhi Vichar Padyatra' has started from October 2, led by Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel from village Kandel of district Dhamtari, a place graced by the presence of Bapu during his first Chhattisgarh visit in 1920.
- This 'Gandhi Vichar Padyatra' will be organized in every Block of the state from 11-17 October.

Following The Footsteps of Bapu

Visit us: dprc.gov.in [@DPRChhattisgarh](https://twitter.com/DPRChhattisgarh) [@DPRChhattisgarh](https://facebook.com/DPRChhattisgarh) [@ChhattisgarhCMO](https://twitter.com/ChhattisgarhCMO) [@ChhattisgarhCMO](https://twitter.com/ChhattisgarhCMO)



Scan this QR code to view Chhattisgarh Janman, The monthly magazine of the Chhattisgarh Public Relations

Bypoll campaign kicks off in Bijepur

The seat is going to the polls for the third time in less than two years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

The candidates and supporters of three major parties – Biju Janata Dal, BJP and Congress – contesting the bypoll in Bijepur Assembly constituency in western Odisha have started campaigning with full force. The by-poll scheduled to be held in the seat on October 21.

Party activists have hit the streets of Bijepur without waiting for the Durga Puja festivities to get over after the list of their respective star campaigners was released on Thursday.

The Bijepur seat in Bar-garh district is going to the polls for the third time in less than two years. But everyone seems to be happy about it. The first was a by-

Party activists have hit the streets of Bijepur without waiting for the Durga Puja festivities to get over after the list of their respective star campaigners was released on Thursday

poll held in February 2018 and the second one when the general election was held earlier this year.

Star campaigners The Congress, which finished third in the last two elections in Bijepur, appears to be keen on putting up a fight this time. The party's list of star campaigners includes its top

leaders – Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Manmohan Singh and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra among others.

The BJP's list has the names of J.P. Nadda, Smriti Irani, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Sarangi, both of whom belong to Odisha, apart from many other senior leaders.

As regards the BJD, which won the seat in the last two elections with impressive margins, the list of star campaigners include Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is likely to campaign for two days on October 17 and 18.

The ruling party's list of star campaigners also has the names of many Members of Parliament, Ministers and legislators.

While it is a prestige battle for all the three major parties, the BJD leaders have started working hard to ensure a victory with higher margin like in the last two polls.

The BJD is confident since its nominee for the upcoming bypoll, Rita Sahu, had won the bypoll in 2018 with a margin of over 41,000 votes and the Chief Minister, who vacated the seat necessitating this bypoll, had won by more than 57,000 votes.

Ms. Sahu is facing challenge from the BJP's Sanat Gartia, who was defeated by Mr. Patnaik earlier this year, and Dillip Panda of the Congress, a local leader contesting Assembly election for the first time.

Kolkata family set to worship Muslim girl for Kumari Puja

Ma Durga has no caste, creed or religion, say couple

SANJUKTA BOSE
KOLKATA

Moushumi and Tamal Dutta barely have a minute to spare as prepare for the Durga Puja celebrations in their house in the Baguihati area of Kolkata. The Duttas are set to rewrite history as they plan to worship a Muslim girl child as part of Kumari Puja, a ritual that takes place on Mahaashatmi, the eighth day of Durga Puja, on Sunday.

When the Duttas commenced their Durga Puja in 2013, they decided to break away from every tradition. They have worshipped girls of different castes and religions as Kumari to make the celebrations as inclusive as possible.

"Ma Durga has no caste, creed or religion. We are worshipping the child as Ma and motherhood has no religion. Hinduism is a liberal religion and we shouldn't be rigid," said Ms. Dutta.

'Happily agreed'

When Mr. Dutta, an engineer at the Kamarhati Municipality in North 24 Parganas, asked his colleague Mohammed Ibrahim about a Muslim girl child they could worship, the latter immediately thought of Fatima, his 4-year-old niece. Mr. Ibrahim broached the subject with his older brother Imran, and then with his sister Bushra Bibi, Fatima's mother. Everyone in the family "happily agreed" to let Fatima, who is yet to start school, be worshipped as the 'Kumari' (a virgin and unmarried girl). They sent a picture of Fatima to the Duttas and made all the arrangements to bring her to Bagui-



The Puja of Dutta Family in North 24 Parganas.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

hati, on the eastern edge of the city.

"I share a good relation with sir [Mr. Dutta], so when he asked me if he could worship my niece, I was very happy," Mr. Ibrahim said.

Following this, Bushra Bibi and Fatima, who belong to a lower-middle income family, were brought to Kolkata from their house in Agra. Mr. Ibrahim said his sister was "honoured by this invitation" and all of them looked forward to having a unique Puja. They are currently staying at Mr. Ibrahim's house in Kamarhati.

During Kumari Puja or Kanya Puja, a girl child who has not attained puberty yet is worshipped as an image of the goddess Durga. Kumari Puja, taking place in different parts of the country during Puja, however, has a casteist connotation to it, since only Brahmin girls can be worshipped, according to tradition. Interestingly, in 1898, Swami Vivekananda had worshipped a Muslim boatman's daughter as Durga in Kashmir, after he received a vision about her. The event is now described as Kumari Puja. However, all

Puja Committees do not encourage the ritual.

'Welcome initiative'

Nrsingha Prasad Bhaduri, eminent Orientalist scholar of the epics and Puranas, explained that the spirit of Kumari Puja has changed over the last century. "Kumari Puja started as a celebration of virginity and also women's empowerment. The Shastras were made a long time back, so the rule that only Brahmin children could be Kumari was made by Brahmins themselves. Today, we are in a secular democracy, so if somebody decides to worship a girl of a different religion as Kumari, then that is considered progressive and a welcome initiative," said Professor Bhaduri.

Ms. Dutta said that her elder brother had suggested worshipping a Muslim girl to induce "a strong message of communal peace" in Bengal. Ms. Dutta's Puja has triggered curiosity in Kolkata – a city that, since Friday, has dramatically changed with lights and installations from Friday night.

[The writer is an intern with The Hindu, Kolkata]

Journey begins



Pilgrims aboard a ferry going to Ganga Sagar Island from Namkhana in Kolkata. The Gangasagar Mela is held at the island every year during Makar Sankranti. Pilgrims come to take a dip at the confluence of the Ganga and the Bay of Bengal, followed by prayers at the Kapil Muni Temple.

• RAJEEV BHATT

'Low conviction in cases against IAS officers'

Since 2000, officers have been convicted in only three cases, claims RTI activist

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Only a few corruption cases involving IAS officers in Odisha have ended in conviction, alleged an RTI activist here.

"Since 2000, as many as 31 IAS officers have been probed by State vigilance department in connection with different cases of graft. Only in three cases, officers have been convicted and the rate of conviction is below 10%," said Pradip Pradhan, who pursued with authorities and the Odisha Information Commission for the past five years for the information.

"The information says in most cases the final report has been submitted and chargesheet has been filed. But we are still in the dark if these high-ranking officials have been punished under law or the government has dismissed them," said Mr. Pradhan.

He alleged names of IAS officers in the 'dal scam' had been surreptitiously dropped and most of these corrupt bureaucrats had been given protection in name of pending investigation and submission of final report.

The government was so

reluctant to share names of corrupt IAS officers that it evaded replying to an RTI application for five years, Mr. Pradhan alleged.

"In 2014, the RTI application was filed with the Directorate of Vigilance, Cuttack seeking information about details of vigilance cases filed against IAS and OAS officers. The final report was prepared and chargesheet filed between 2000 and 2014," he said.

The RTI activist said the public information officer and First Appellate Authority rejected the application stating that it was too volu-

minous information to share.

"Then second appeal was filed with the Odisha Information Commission in 2015. The government issued a notification saying the State vigilance does not come under the ambit of RTI Act. The decision was later challenged in Orissa High Court," said Mr. Pradhan

After years of regular hearing and discussion with the Chief Information Commissioner, Odisha in 2017, it was finally agreed that the list of corruption cases involving IAS officers would be supplied, he said.

'Social media posts about child abductions a hoax'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AIZAWL

The Mizoram Police on Saturday said its personnel have been put on high alert to prevent any attempts to abduct children, while dismissing social media posts about such alleged cases as a mere hoax.

Inspector General of Police (Headquarters) John

Neihlaia said over the past few days, rumours are making the rounds across social media about 'non-Mizos' attempting to kidnap Mizo children.

The viral posts claimed the incidents had taken place at Keitum in Serchhip district on September 18, South Lungphe in Lawngtlai district on September 30

and near the Mizoram- Assam border in Kolasib district on October 1, he said.

No evidence

"However, no evidence was found to support the allegations that non-Mizos were roaming across the State with an intent to abduct Mizo children," said Mr. Neihlaia, also the chief public relations officer of the State police.

Such allegations were revealed to be unfounded or a result of communication gap, he said.

The State police appeal to all the residents to remain calm and not be misguided by such baseless and unconfirmed posts over the social media, the officer added.

Gorkha body bats for tea workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Gorkha Parishad and its youth organisation, the Bharatiya Gorkha Yuva Parishad, on Saturday jointly appealed to the tea garden owners in West Bengal's Darjeeling Hills to release 20% bonus to two lakh tea garden workers in the region.

Workers of all the 87 tea garden estates in Darjeeling observed a 12-hour strike on Friday demanding higher bonus payout.

This was the first shutdown of the Darjeeling Hills since the 104-day-long strike in 2017.

The owners have offered a 12% bonus.

READ SPORTSTAR EVERY FORTNIGHT

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 98203 50726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL
PH: 98110 06590
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH

Mr. D Rangarajan (77), Retired Deputy Controller (Maintenance), The Hindu, Chennai, passed away on 05-10-2019. Address: 5th Floor, Geraldine Apts, Central Avenue, Chembur 13th Street, Chembur, Mumbai - 400071 Contact : 09821049903

OBITUARY
G. Santhakumar, 76 yrs
Retired Executive Civil Engineer, Ministry of Defence
Passed away in Dubai, California, USA on October 4.
Deeply Mourned by
Rajen Krishnamoorthy, Raj Nitya, Late-Suresh Vijay-Radhika & Grand Children
Contact: +1-469-996-8469 (USA)

Tributes to The Doyen
DR. C. GOPALAN (1918 - 2019)
Padma Bhushan
Father of Nutrition & Dietetics Practice, Research and Profession
Nutrition Society of India (NSI) Chennai
Indian Dietetic Association (IDA) Chennai
Indian Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition (ISPEN)

REMEMBRANCE
4th ANNIVERSARY
P NALINI HARIDASAN
03.04.1948 - 06.10.2015
Fondly Remembered
Family & Friends
9843258347

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
New Delhi : 011- 43579797
Rate for New Delhi: (Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines Extra Line - Rs.160/-)
(B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm (Clr Display) : Rs.70/Per Sq.cm
Log on to www.thehinduads.com
For Placing Advertisements Online

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

MATRIMONIAL
BRIDES WANTED
TAMIL
ALLIANCE INVITED for Tamil Iyer boy Sathiyam, Haritham, BE MBA, 40/175, working for MNC Bangalore. Contact: ganesht.brlr.2013@gmail.com, 8661866733
IYER VADAMAL Sadamarshanam Aswini 30, BE, MBA Bank of America, Chennai, seeks suitable Bride; 9080303055
Kavara Naidu 28/170 MBBS Working Pvt Chennai 60kpm seeks MBBS, MD, Dr Bride. Subject No Bar.7373221165
BRIDES WANTED
Alliance invited for Chennai Born, Australian Citizen, Graduate BE (Hon's), Financially sound, Brahmin Iyer,Shadamarsna gotharam/ Poosam, 30years/5'10" medium complexion,only son, clean habits, employed as a Project engineer in Sydney, Seeks from Brahmin Iyer girl aged between 24 to 29 years, qualified, good family values, willing to relocate to Sydney Australia. Email with recent photo and details. Other Brahmin too welcome 944441653 kalakrishnan64@gmail.com
WIDOWER 66 Hotel Business needs life partner 50-55 with good health to maintain home & business. No Encumbrance. 97869 85957
DKV 36, Deputy Commercial Tax Officer, Physically handicapped, Seeks caring family girl. Ct: 9043468756.
DELHI BASED Sozhiya Velalar 36 fair slim 170 cms BBA Chitaraikanni working manager having house in Delhi seeks bride caste no bar contact 9871101344
55, Devanga Chettiar, CNB, Bachelor, 7'000 P.M., Seeks rich Wld/Div with Child to develop 1.5 Crore plot into shopping complex or relocating with bride, 8220212938.
Hindu Nadar, 35 years, From a reputed family with large plantation business. Looking for a girl preferably B.Sc., Agri/Horti., same caste. Cont: +919791482388.
TELUGU
REDDY AVITAM Kumbam 28/175 Fair BE,MBA Pvt Chennai seeks Educated Bride.9841074431/ 8248593385
Ma Durga has no caste, creed or religion, say couple
Nrsingha Prasad Bhaduri, eminent Orientalist scholar of the epics and Puranas, explained that the spirit of Kumari Puja has changed over the last century. "Kumari Puja started as a celebration of virginity and also women's empowerment. The Shastras were made a long time back, so the rule that only Brahmin children could be Kumari was made by Brahmins themselves. Today, we are in a secular democracy, so if somebody decides to worship a girl of a different religion as Kumari, then that is considered progressive and a welcome initiative," said Professor Bhaduri.
Ms. Dutta said that her elder brother had suggested worshipping a Muslim girl to induce "a strong message of communal peace" in Bengal. Ms. Dutta's Puja has triggered curiosity in Kolkata – a city that, since Friday, has dramatically changed with lights and installations from Friday night.
[The writer is an intern with The Hindu, Kolkata]

Chhattisgarh state cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd Notice Inviting Tender For selection of SI for supply, installation, development, implementation and maintenance of GPS based vehicle tracking system
C.G. Markfed invites the Request for Proposal for selection of SI for supply, installation, development, implementation and maintenance of GPS based vehicle tracking system mare detail on the service/SOW are provided in the RFP document available on website- www.markfed.cg.nic.in and https://eprocure.cgstate.gov.in/
Online submission of rate/bid can be filled online through website- https://epco.cgstate.gov.in dated from 06.10.2019 to 06.11.2019. For E-tender related process and information bidder can contact Mjunction email-helpdesk.cgproc@gmail.com Phone No- 18002582502
GENERAL MANAGER (Markfed) 229466
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION (Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India) MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL NH-3, NIT, FARIDABAD (HARYANA)
Email: dean-faridabad@esic.nic.in Tel. No. 0129-4156471
ADVERTISEMNT NO.2
CONTRACTUAL RECRUITMENT / EMANELMENT OF SUPER SPECIALISTS/SPECIALIST DOCTORS ON (FULL / PART TIME) / CASE TO CASE BASIS
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW ON 15th OF EVERY MONTH TILL DECEMBER 2019
FOR DETAILS MAY VISIT WEBSITE WWW.ESIC.NIC.IN
Venue & Time
ESIC Medical College & Hospital, NH-3, NIT, Faridabad at 9.00 AM
Specialty Anaesthesia
Super Specialty Plastic Surgery, Uro-Surgery, Paediatric Surgery
Gastroenterology, Medical Oncology
Neurology, Endocrinology, Nephrology
Cardiology, Intensive(Critical Care Medicine)/Emergency Medicine
In case, 15th of any month is a holiday, Walk-In-Interview shall be held on the next working day.
Detailed terms & conditions, eligibility criteria etc. governing the empanelment are available on the official website links:
1. https://www.esic.nic.in/recruitments
2. https://www.esic.nic.in/recruitments/medical_recruitment_list
Dean

IN BRIEF



Golden chariot taken out in procession in Tirumala

TIRUMALA
Thousands of devotees witnessed the golden chariot procession at Tirumala on Saturday, the fifth day of the Brahmotsavams. The processional deity of Lord Malayappa, flanked by His two consorts, placed atop the 28-feet-high golden chariot, was taken out in a procession around the temple streets. Contrary to other festival days, the deity was brought out thrice during the day on various *vahanams*.

No plan to ban day traffic in Bandipur: Karnataka

MYSURU
The Karnataka Forest Department has refuted speculations of a ban on day traffic on NH 766, which connects Kollegal in Karnataka with Kozhikode in Kerala and passes through Bandipur. A release from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka said there was no such proposal before the government. A night traffic ban is in place on the stretch for the last 10 years to minimise road kill.

Leopard captured from colony in Wayanad

KALPETTA
A seven-year-old male leopard that triggered panic among residents near Pulpally in Kerala's Wayanad district was captured around 9 a.m. from a colony on Saturday. It was suspected that it had come from the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary or Bandipur reserve in Karnataka, said P. Ranjith Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, South Wayanad Forest Division. The animal was under observation at the Forest Veterinary Laboratory at Sulthan Bathery, he added.

Post-mortem report exposes cyanide trail

In macabre Kerala case, presence of chemical in Roy Thomas's body led Crime Branch to suspects

STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

The confidential investigation launched by the Crime Branch into the Kozhikode serial murders came to the attention of the people of Koodathayi, a village located about 30 km from the city, only when the investigators decided to open the graves of the six victims and collect the remains for forensic examination.

The squad had maintained secrecy in investigation and placed the suspects – Jolly Shaju, the prime accused, and two others – under surveillance.

Rojo Thomas, son of first victim Tom Thomas, had told the squad that he too was under the scanner of the alleged murderers. The man and his family could not be targeted as they lived abroad, police sources said. It was Mr. Rojo's persistent demand that prompted the Crime Branch to take up the case, which was not probed in depth by the local police.

Case diary

<p>↻ August 22, 2002 Annamma Thomas (57)</p>	<p>↻ August 26, 2008 Tom Thomas (66)</p>	<p>↻ September 30, 2011 Roy Thomas (40)</p>	<p>↻ February 24, 2014 Mathew Manjadiyil (68)</p>
<p>↻ May 3, 2014 Alphine Shaju (2)</p>	<p>↻ January 11, 2016 Sily Shaju (41)</p>	<p><i>Opening of graves at Koodathayi and Kodencheri October 4, 2019</i></p> <p><i>The police cracked the mystery by tracking Mathew and Prajikumar who allegedly supplied cyanide to the woman</i></p> <p>Arrested persons ↻ Jolly Shaju, 47 ↻ M.S. Mathew, 44 ↻ Prajikumar, 48</p>	

He had gone to the squad multiple times with the evidence against the suspects, and the Crime Branch then decided to open the graves.

District Police Chief (Kozhikode Rural) K.G. Simon on

Saturday said the post-mortem examination of the body of Roy Thomas – the third victim – which revealed traces of cyanide, provided the Crime Branch team with incriminating evidence to ar-

rest the three suspects. Of the six victims, post-mortem examination was conducted only on Roy Thomas's body, since his death was suspected to be a case of suicide. "Details of the other

'Minorities are completely safe here'

Union government committed to their development, says Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

"Minorities are completely safe here. India is heaven for minorities. Our neighbouring country Pakistan is hell," Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minority Affairs, said here on Saturday.

To a question whether minorities were feeling increasingly unsafe in the country, Mr. Naqvi said it was untrue. The Union government is committed to the development of minorities, he went on to add, arguing that India was the only country to provide constitutional protec-



Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

tion for minorities to start educational institutions.

He claimed the widening of the scholarship programme by the Ministry of Minority Affairs had brought down the school dropout

rate among girls from minority communities from about 70% to around 40%.

Education gap

Pointing out that there was a 'very big gap' between north and south India in terms of education, he said that prominent educational institutions from the south should open campuses in the north to address this gap.

Interacting with the media after delivering the convocation address at the B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute Of Science And Technology (BSARCIST) here, he

said there was a significant gap in literacy rates between north and south India, and his Ministry and the Ministry of Human Resource Development would facilitate more educational institutions to come up in the north.

Michael Aaron N. N. Oquaye Esq (Jnr), High Commissioner of Ghana to India, was conferred Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) at the convocation. A total of 1,396 graduands received their degrees. Arif Buhari Rahman, Chancellor, BSARCIST, presided.

Nine-year-old girl raped in Kurnool

She had gone out to attend nature's call

STAFF REPORTER
KURNOOL

A nine-year-old girl was allegedly raped by an unidentified person at Yemmiganur here in Andhra Pradesh on Friday evening.

The incident occurred when the girl went into the bushes near the Yemmiganur police station to attend nature's call, as there was no toilet in her house.

The police have formed three teams to nab the accused.

Yemmiganur town Circle Inspector Sreedhar Raju told *The Hindu* that the child's parents worked as daily wagers. He said the unidentified person reportedly followed the girl, lured her with chocolates and committed the crime, Mr. Sreedhar said.

"The child screamed for help while she was being sexually assaulted. To silence her, the accused hit her on the head with a

stone, which immobilised her," he added.

Hearing the screams, the girl's parents rushed to the spot and saw her lying in a pool of blood. By that time, the accused had fled.

The girl was then rushed to the local government hospital where she was administered first aid. Later she was shifted to the Kurnool Government General Hospital. "She received 14 stitches on her head," said Mr. Sreedhar. Her condition is said to be stable.

"The girl told us that she does not know the man, but could identify him," the police officer said.

Mr. Sreedhar said that as the incident occurred near the police station, the accused might have been captured by the CCTV cameras set up by the police. "We are going through the footage," he added.

The Yemmiganur police have registered a case.

A.P. Chief Minister delaying court proceedings, says CBI

It opposes his plea for exemption from personal appearance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI has opposed a petition of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy seeking exemption from personal appearance during court hearings in connection with the cases against him. He filed the petition last month.

"It is submitted that it is almost six years from the date of filing last chargesheet in the case, but the trial proceedings are yet to start.

This is an indication that the accused has been able to procrastinate the proceedings on one pretext or the other," said the agency, urging the court to dismiss the petition.

The CBI said that in such circumstances, if the request was allowed, it would "virtually entail him to liberate himself from the lawful restrictions" imposed by the court to ensure the ends of justice and "give him an unsolicited liberty to do what

ever he wants and influence the witnesses".

The agency said that in all 11 chargesheets, Mr. Reddy was named as accused in his individual capacity and as a representative of his companies and therefore should attend the court proceedings.

The petitioner being head of the Andhra Pradesh government was placed in a much more advantageous position to influence witnesses, the agency said in its affidavit earlier this week.

Former TV9 CEO held on fund embezzlement charge

He allegedly withdrew huge sums from company accounts

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Former chief executive officer of TV9 V. Ravi Prakash was arrested and sent to remand by the Banjara Hills police here on Saturday for alleged misappropriation of funds and causing loss to Associated Broadcasting Company Private Limited. West Zone DCP B. Sumathi said they had applied for his police custody.



V. Ravi Prakash

Whole-time director of the company G. Singa Rao lodged a complaint with the Banjara Hills police on Friday alleging that Ravi Prakash and M.K.V.N. Murthy withdrew huge sums from the bank accounts of the company without following the prescribed procedure and without providing any calculations thereof and

without proper approval of directors or shareholders.

'Three persons involved'

Citing another name, Mr. Rao alleged that the three persons withdrew ₹18.31 crore as bonus and ₹11.74 crore as ex gratia.

"Ravi Prakash and Murthy – who were the directors and authorised signatories

to the bank accounts as on the date of drawal of the abovesaid sums – misused their cheque power, which is to be used for the interest of the company, and have withdrawn the amounts fraudulently," Mr. Rao said in his complaint. He alleged that the amount "misused" by the duo was almost equivalent to the profits of two financial years.

DCP Sumathi said the main allegation was that the money withdrawn citing bonus and ex gratia was used for personal purpose. The police went through Ravi Prakash's bank transactions. "Approval of the board of directors is a must for withdrawing the amount. We will probe if the money was transferred to personal accounts," the DCP said.

Racing ahead



Snakeboats compete in the fifth leg of the Champions Boat League organised by the Kerala Tourism department at Marine Drive in Kochi on Saturday. The contest will be on till November 1. •THULASI KAIKKAT

Indians stranded in Saudi seek help

600 workers, including 70 from Kerala, have been suffering in labour camps

MINI MURINGATHERI
THRISSUR

Around 600 employees, including 70 from Kerala, have been suffering in labour camps in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, without food, medicine and wages.

These employees, many of them working in Saudi Arabia for five to 30 years, were left in dire straits as their companies, mostly in the construction sector, were listed in the 'Red' category after they failed to implement the Nitaqat law.

Nitaqat, which was brought in to localise labour, makes it mandatory for all businesses in private sector to reserve at least 10% of jobs for Saudi nationals.

K.V. Abdul Khader, MLA and chairman of the As-

sembly committee for Prava-si Welfare, who visited the labour camp of Al Dossary Company in Jubail city in KSA, said the lives of these labourers was horrible. Al Dossary was a well-established company for roads and other civil works.

"They have been denied food and medicine. They are not getting wages for more than 10 months. As they are not getting any insurance benefits, many are not able to take treatment for even serious illnesses," said Mr. Khader.

"Most of them face travel ban as their visa and other documents have already expired. They cannot come back home even if their beloved ones die. Many are yet to get huge amounts of mo-

They have been denied food and medicine. They have not got wages for over 10 months

K.V. ABDUL KHADER
MLA & Prava-si Welfare Committee chief

ney from their companies as service benefits," Mr. Khader said.

"Their labour camps have been without power or water supply for months. Many of them collapse unable to tolerate the heat. The company managements are not providing them with any help. They are now surviving with the support of some Malayali organisations," the MLA said.

There are many more workers in various other companies like Al Khobar

and Araar, who face a similar fate, he added.

The new management policy is to close down the company without paying any compensation to employees. They are not given any wages for the last 10 months, according to Employees Coordination Committee of Al Dossary Company.

The employees submitted a written complaint to a Saudi labour court with the support of the Indian Embassy help desk and verdict was in their favour. But the company is not taking any step to execute the judgment, the employees alleged.

Mr. Khader urged the Union government to take up the issue at the diplomatic level with the Saudi Ministry.

Many from A.P. stuck in Hyderabad

TSRTC strike hits people hard; APSRTC and Railways trying to clear festival rush

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
VIJAYAWADA

Thousands of students, software professionals and employees working in private companies in Hyderabad, who planned to celebrate the festival in their native places, were stranded in Hyderabad owing to the strike called by the employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) to press for their demands.

The chief demand was the merger of the corporation with the government.

The South Central Railway (SCR), private travel buses, cabs and taxi operators rushed to Hyderabad to clear the Dasara rush as the strike came into effect on Friday midnight.



The deserted Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station in Hyderabad on Saturday. •G. RAMAKRISHNA

The SCR is operating special trains from various destinations.

"Dasara is one of the major festivals and we want to celebrate it with our family. We reserved tickets in TSRTC buses in advance to

travel to Vijayawada but buses were cancelled," said a passenger T. Damodar.

The APSRTC has geared up to meet the situation and is running special buses.

"Many employees, natives of East and West Godavari,

Guntur, Prakasam and other districts, generally book tickets up to Vijayawada, which is a transport hub. They will then take various modes of transport to reach their native places. Now there is a huge demand for private buses," said an operator.

APSRTC Executive Director (ED-operations) K.V.R.K. Prasad told *The Hindu* the corporation was running 549 buses on a regular basis to Hyderabad and 4,000 special buses had been planned for the festival.

"The Telangana government has requested us to run extra buses and we are ready. Our teams have been deputed to Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai and other cities to monitor the situation," he said.

IN BRIEF



Stalin asks Centre to withdraw sedition case

CHENNAI DMK president M.K. Stalin on Saturday criticised the filing of a sedition case against 49 personalities, including Ramachandra Guha, Mani Ratnam and Aparna Sen. He said the action was against freedom of expression.

Unnao: counsel pulled up for post on social media

NEW DELHI A Delhi court on Saturday pulled up the counsel for one of the parties in the Unnao rape case for posting on social media the details of the in-camera proceedings of the case pertaining to the alleged murder of the victim's father. PTI

Quitting Army due to harassment, says jawan

DHULE Soldier Chandu Chavan, who inadvertently crossed into Pakistan in 2016, said he is quitting the Army due to incessant "harassment" in the force. He has sent his resignation letter to his unit commander in Ahmednagar, sources said. PTI

Aarey in lockdown as trees are felled

Section 144 imposed; 29 protesters held

GAUTAM S. MENGLE AJEET MAHALE MUMBAI

The cutting of trees at the Aarey forest continued through the night of Friday and into Saturday, even as activists and residents of Mumbai reacted with outrage over the government's decision to start felling in the middle of the night just hours after the High Court verdict.

The handling of the protests by police also came in for criticism with 29 persons arrested early in the morning and nearly 200 others detained through the day. Those detained on Saturday also included NCP leader and MLA Jitendra Awhad.

Mumbai Police spokesperson DCP Pranaya Ashok confirmed that 23 men and six women were arrested in the early hours of Saturday. "The accused were arrested as they held a protest without prior permission and assaulted two constables, including a female constable," Mr. Ashok said.

The arrested protestors



Green warriors: Police detaining activists who were staging a protest against the felling of trees at Aarey Colony in Mumbai on Saturday. •PTI

were later remanded in judicial custody for 14 days.

Following the protests, police imposed Section 144 in and around Aarey till Sunday morning. Only residents of Aarey Milk Colony and those who could prove they had work in Aarey were allowed entry. There were police barriers at all entry points like Goregaon, Marol and Powai and public transport was diverted.

'Surgical strike'

As the felling of trees continued, Stalin Dayanand of the

NGO Vanashakti, one of the petitioners against the government decision, called it a "surgical strike on Aarey".

"We have confirmed information that around 1,800 trees were cut by 3 p.m. and they plan to clear the plot by Monday, when the courts reopen," Mr. Dayanand said. Out of the 2,646 trees that are to be removed, 2,238 trees are slated to be cut and the rest are planned to be transplanted.

Senior officials from the State government said on condition of anonymity that

a high level meeting with the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai and the Chief Secretary was held on Thursday to assess the situation ahead of Friday's judgement.

On Friday night protesters poured into Aarey, numbering nearly 400 by 11 p.m.

The police then resorted to a lathi charge and detained around 150 persons initially. The detainees were taken to various police stations including Vanrai, Samta Nagar, Powai and Aarey.

(With inputs from Sonam Saigal)

Political storm rages ahead of election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The overnight axing of trees in Mumbai's Aarey green belt amid the detention of green protesters triggered a political storm in Maharashtra on Saturday, just a little over two weeks before the State goes to the polls on October 21.

While the Shiv Sena decided to walk a tightrope by refraining from directly criticising the State Government led by its alliance partner, the BJP, even as it voiced support for the environmentalists opposing the tree felling, Opposition parties hit out at the the Sena's 'two-faced' approach.

The Congress and Nationalist Congress Party said the BJP should be transparent about its sustainable development policy. "The State needs to clear its stand on environment and sustainable development," said Supriya Sule, NCP leader and MP.

Man held for sending threats to Delhi CM

Accused is a resident of Rajasthan

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 36-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly sending threatening and derogatory emails to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the police said on Saturday.

They said the accused has been identified as a resident of Rajasthan's Ajmer.

"He has been arrested for sending two offensive and threatening emails on the CM's official email address," police said.

Police said his laptop had been seized.

The accused is a Bache-

lors in Engineering (Information Technology) graduate but is unemployed and is undergoing treatment for mental illness, the police said.

Investigation revealed that he had sent similar emails to other noted people as well and had obtained the email address of Mr. Kejriwal on a search engine, said sources.

The police received a complaint regarding the matter on September 20 after which the matter was forwarded to the Cyber Crime Unit for probe.

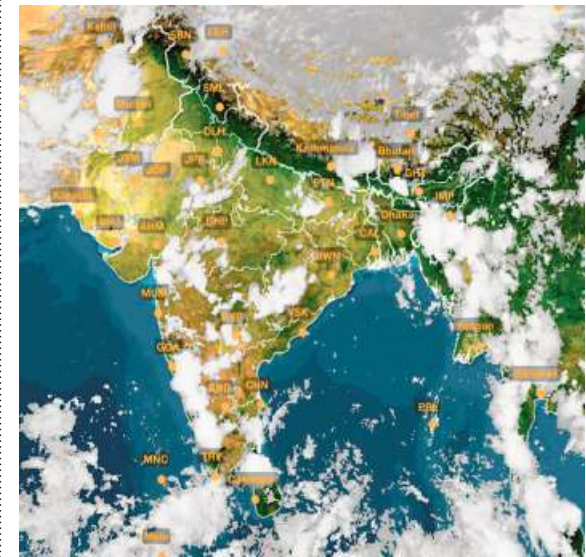
Food for thought



Harsh conditions: Victims gathering around to collect food from a tractor filled with relief material brought by social workers for distribution at Nand Nagar Colony in Patna on Saturday. •RANJEET KUMAR

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Sunday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, central Maharashtra, Konkan and Goa.

Table with 7 columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN, CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various Indian cities.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)
Pollutants in the air you are breathing
CITIES SO2 NO2 CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

When Mizoram shows way to reuse Durga idol

Fibreglass avatar used to cut pollution

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

Goddess Durga has a fibreglass 'avatar' in Mizoram and it has much to do with slaying the demon of ecological degradation.

There are very few temples in Mizoram, where 87% of the population is Christian. Of the 13 that are managed by the Central Gorkha Mandir Committee, five are in Aizawl.

Until about a decade ago, the Durga Puja celebration in these temples was similar to that in adjoining Assam and Tripura - installing clay idols of the Goddess and members of her family and immersing them on Vijaya Dasami.

But things changed in 2011. Cutting costs - the idols had to be brought from southern Assam's Silchar about 190 km north - was a factor. But the bigger reason was to stop adding chemical colours and other pollutants to the hill river systems.

"That year, we switched to the images of the Goddess and her entourage printed on flex. We used a dollop of earth as a symbolic idol for worshipping, used all biodegradable material to conduct the puja and immersed them in the streams and rivers as per the convenience of each temple administration," Uday Kumar, the committee's president told The Hindu.

Five years later, the committee members realised



A fibreglass statue of Durga. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that the non-biodegradable flex were also prone to tearing.

"In 2016, we decided to change to a fibreglass idol. The bigger temple at Bawngkawn has a 5ft idol while the one at Om Mandir in Thuampui, our locality, is smaller," said Pratap Chhetri, a local resident and State government employee.

The locality has some 120 Gorkha families. About 20,000 of Mizoram's 1.12 million people are Gorkhas, mostly descendants of soldiers the British had brought along 120 years ago.

Mr. Kumar said each fibreglass Durga idol is stored in a consecrated place within the temple complex after the Puja and brought out for the next year's celebration. "You can say we don't throw our Mother Goddess away after we are through with worshipping her. She is always around us," he said.

Thanjavur idols to be returned to temple

Statues Big Temple's property: Idol Wing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHI

Officials of the Idol Wing CID took possession of two metal idols of Veenadhara Dakshinamurthy and Tirupuranthagar from the art gallery at the Thanjavur palace complex on Saturday, on the ground that they belonged to the Sri Brihadeeswarar Temple.

The action came after Madras High Court-appointed Special Officer Ponn. Manickavel and Idol Wing officials conducted an elaborate inspection of the art gallery.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Manickavel said that 66 idols were presented to the Big Temple during the reign of Raja Raja Chola. This could be gleaned from information provided in inscriptions at the temple.

Some of the panchaloha idols at the temple went missing several years ago and a complaint was lodged by the Idol Wing in this connection with the Thanjavur West police station in 2018.

Subsequently, the idols of Raja Raja Chola I and his consort Lokamadevi were



In good hands: Officials taking possession of idols from the Thanjavur Palace Art Gallery on Saturday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

recovered from a museum in Ahmedabad and restored to the temple.

As part of the continuing investigation in the case, the idols of Veenadhara Dakshinamurthy and Tirupuranthagar, weighing about 60 kg and 56 kg, respectively, were taken possession of from the art gallery. They are expected to be restored to the temple after court proceedings.

Idol Wing officials explained to the art gallery that the idols did not belong there and were meant for worship.

Odisha woman in labour dies in ambulance

Vehicle out of fuel on way to hospital

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

A pregnant woman in labour died when an ambulance carrying her ran out of fuel on its way to a hospital in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on Saturday.

The victim, Tulasi Munda, had initially been admitted to the Bangriposi government hospital, where she went into labour at 10 p.m. on Friday.

The attending doctors found her blood pressure very high and immediately referred her to the Raghunath Murmu Medical College Hospital, Baripada, which is 40 km from Bangriposi.

"The 108 ambulance was not immediately available at Bangriposi," said Chittaranjan Munda, the victim's husband. "Doctors suggested me to take her in a government ambulance that was

available on the campus," he added.

The ambulance had barely travelled 15 km when it ran out of fuel. "The vehicle did not move," said Mr. Munda. "There was nobody to help in the dead of the night. We were stranded for over an hour," he recalled.

A 108 ambulance was called, which reached the spot after about an hour. When they reached the hospital around 2 a.m. on Saturday, doctors declared her 'brought dead'.

Pradip Mohapatra, Chief District Medical Officer of Mayurbhanj, said, "The ambulance hit a snag at an isolated place due to which there was a delay in shifting the woman. The driver said the fuel pipe ruptured midway and oil drained out." A detailed inquiry into the incident will be conducted, he added.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
Advertisement No.PGI/RC/2019/111/4255 Dated: 05.10.2019
NOTICE FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh intends to fill up the vacant post of Assistant Professor (UR-01) in department of Medical Parasitology purely on contract basis for a period of three years through walk-in-interview.

SEARCH OF MISSING PERSON
General public is here by informed that the Man Namely: Mr. Naseer S/o Maithen Kannu, Beempally, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Age: 29, Height: 165 cm, Face: Oval, Complexion: Medium, Built: Fat, Wearing: Pant & Shirt has been missing since 14/04/2019 from Mumbai Railway Station.
In this regard a case has been registered in Poonthura Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram City as Crime No.1214/2019.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
JAL BHAWAN, TODARMAL MARG, AJMER
PHONE NO.0145-2624748 FAX NO.0145-2627671
No.F.(J)/Ar.MP/2018-2019/6890-6919 Dated: 28-09-2019
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PHED, Region Ajmer
Tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the Work of Providing, Erection, Joining and commissioning of transmission main from Martindal Bridge to PSB head Works, including various distribution pipelines with shifting of existing water connections in newly laid distribution pipelines alongwith pipe fittings, manufacturing, supplying lowering, laying and jointing in position of fabricated MS pipe alongwith on-site fabrication of MS works.
NIB No: PHE1920A2778 UBN No: PHE1920WSOB04712
(P.L. Verma) Additional Chief Engineer, PHED, Region, Ajmer

ICMR School of Public Health
ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY (Indian Council of Medical Research)
Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, CHENNAI-600 077.
MPH Admission Notice - 2020
Applications are invited from medical graduates for admission to the Master of Public Health (Epidemiology and Health Systems) - 2 year programme of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, conducted by ICMR School of Public Health at ICMR - National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai.
Last date for receipt of application: 31st December 2019
Date of commencement of the course: 1st July 2020
Information Brochure and prescribed application form are available on the Institute's Website: www.nie.gov.in (Email: nieicmr@gmail.com, Phone: 044-26136420/26136419).
Date: 1st October 2019 Director

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER KALABURAGI
Opp. Mini Soudha, Aiwane-Shahi Road, Kalaburgi-585 102.
Tel: 08472-220817, Fax: 08472-260818, E-mail: kwbceklb14@gmail.com
No. KUWSDB/TEC/DCE/TA/AE-1/Bhalki Filter/2019-20/902 Date: 05.10.2019
CORRIGENDUM-II
Name of Work: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 20 MLD Self Cleaning Micro fiber Water Filtration Plant and Operation and Maintenance of entire Water Treatment Plant including Micro fiber Filter for 3 Years under Water Supply Scheme to Bhalki Town and 23 enroute Villages.
Ref: 1) Work Indent: KUWSDB/2019-20/PM/WORK_INDENT 2499.
2) This office Short Term Tender Notification No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/AE-1/Bhalki_WSS/2019-20/671 Date: 21.08.2019.
3) This office Corrigendum-I No. 859 Dated: 26.09.2019.
Short Term Tender Notification was issued vide above reference for the said work, the Corrigendum-I for the same was published in "Vijaya Vani" and "The Hindu" newspaper on dated 28-09-2019. In Pursuant to clause 5.2 of Section 2, Instructions to Tenderers (ITT) of tender document, the calendar of events on e-procurement portal shall be read as under:
1 Last Date & Time for submission/ uploading of the tender in e-procurement portal 15.10.2019 upto 17.30 Hrs.
2 Date & time for opening of the Technical Tenders 18.10.2019 after 11.30 Hrs.
3 Date & time for opening of the Financial Tenders will be notified later.
The other conditions are unaltered.
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER
KUWS & D BOARD, Kalaburgi Zone, Kalaburagi.

FROM PAGE ONE

Nasheed: Kashmir is India’s internal issue

Mr. Nasheed was in Delhi to speak at the World Economic Forum India summit. His speech focused on China’s investments in the Maldives, which he referred to as more exploitative “than the [British] East India company”, sparked strong reactions from the Chinese Ambassador to the Maldives Zhang Lizhong on Friday.

Mr. Zhang called the comments “irresponsible” in a series of tweets criticising Mr. Nasheed, and also accused him of trying to play India against China. “Any attempt to drive a wedge between China and India is futile...developing better relations with China and India simultaneously is

in the best interest of the Maldives,” Mr. Zhang tweeted. Mr. Nasheed denied that his comments on China were out of line with the Ibu Solih government’s foreign policy, but conceded that despite a year in office, the Solih government has shown no signs of revoking Chinese projects.

“I do hope the MDP government is not looking for arrangements with China. China must reduce the debt to an actual and factual level, not the inflated prices they have given,” Mr. Nasheed said, adding that even the Maldives-China Free Trade Agreement could be stalled by their Parliament.

(For full interview, log on to bit.ly/NasheedQA)

Ex-Haryana Cong. chief Ashok Tanwar quits party

On Wednesday, he had openly protested outside the Congress chief’s 10 Janpath residence here, alleging irregularities and corruption in ticket distribution.

But his letter has brought to the fore again the divide between the older generation of leaders and the younger lot seen to be close to

former party chief Rahul Gandhi. The party, however, played down the conspiracy charges and advised leaders to exercise restraint. Asked about the comments by Mr. Tanwar, former Union Minister Manish Tewari said on Friday that party colleagues should “not resort to kite flying by floating conspiracy theories”.

Kerala police crack serial murder case

The investigators cracked the mystery by tracking Mathew and Prajikumar, who allegedly supplied the cyanide to the woman for executing the murders.

The duo was working at the time with a local jewellery firm and had access to the poisonous chemical. .

Annamma Thomas was the first victim in 2002 and reportedly died soon after having some home-made food. Six years later, her husband Tom Thomas died the same way, followed by their son Roy in 2011.

The other three deaths took place in 2014 and 2016. Annamma’s brother Mathew Manchadiyil, and his two relatives – Sily and her daughter were the victims.

They too are believed to have died after having food mixed with a small quantity of cyanide.

After the mysterious deaths, the woman who al-

legedly masterminded the killing married another member of the family.

The conspiracy was exposed after Rojo Thomas, son of Tom Thomas, filed a confidential petition with the Crime Branch seeking a probe into the suspicious deaths in his family. He also submitted proof of some secret land deals, in which the suspects tried to take control of the properties of the dead persons.

In a preliminary investigation, the Crime Branch squad confirmed that Shaju was present when all the six deaths occurred.

The actual motive was revealed when the squad checked the property transactions and financial deals done by her in partnership with her new husband. The details of telephone calls made by the two during the time of the deaths too helped the police in uncovering the mystery.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the inauguration ceremony of the North East Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition-2019 in Aizawl on Saturday. • PTI

Mizoram CM calls for CAB safeguards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AIZAWL

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was on a one-day visit to Mizoram on Saturday, discussed development and security issues with State Chief Minister Zoramthanga.

Mr. Shah, the BJP national president, met leaders of the NGO Coordination Committee, a conglomerate of civil society organisations, and student bodies of the State.

The two leaders discussed the strategic geographical importance of Mizoram and how the State can facilitate better international relations with its two border countries – Myanmar and Bangladesh, an official release said.

“He recognised Mizoram as a peaceful State. He said it could be a model for its

north-eastern neighbours,” the Chief Minister said. Mr. Zoramthanga raised the issue of a special provision in the Citizenship Amendment Bill for the Northeast and stressed the importance of granting a separate cadre for Mizoram in the All India services. He also talked about creating new battalions of Border Guard Force for Mizoram and the need for recruitment of Hindi teachers under central schemes.

Mr. Shah and members of the NGO Coordination Committee also held a meeting on CAB. The committee leaders were advised to draft a special clause to be incorporated in the CAB to strengthen the Inner Line Permit system in all ILP States.

“It will act as a buffer to the CAB in these States, the release said.

Cars, cargo to arrive in Chennai ahead of President Xi’s visit

Chinese officials inspect security arrangements at the airport

SUNITHA SEKAR
CHENNAI

A special aircraft carrying cars and cargo from China is expected to arrive at Chennai airport in a few days, ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit next week.

“A Boeing 747 may be arriving early next week carrying their cars. It is not clear how many will be transported. The aircraft will carry everything the Chinese President and his personnel will need for their stay here for two days from 11 October to 13 October,” an official said.

Inspection was recently done by Chinese personnel in the airport to check for security and other arrangements and in a few days, personnel from the Special Protection Group (SPG) too will arrive in the city to carry out their inspection of the airport, sources said.

For the brief period when the Chinese President arrives, there will be no domestic and international flights; airlines will be informed to reschedule the timings of the flights.

When the Chinese Presi-



Imminent arrival: A view of Gate Number 5 at Chennai airport on Saturday. • B. VELANKANNI RAJ

dent’s aircraft lands, there will be dance and music and a space is being earmarked for it in the operational area of the airport, another official said.

The airport has already been abuzz with a slew of activities to prepare for his visit and to spruce up the premises. Officials of Airports Authority of India (AAI) said the walls near gate no.5 and 6 were being repainted now; soon, there

will be murals in the walls. A mini roundtana like facility would be created with landscaping. “A massive cleaning of sorts is happening in the airport so that there is no issue of any sort,” he added.

Metro Rail

A vertical garden would also be created in the Chennai Metro Rail pillar near Meenambakkam.

In lieu of this visit, Chennai Metro Rail has begun cleaning their pillars and removing all kinds of posters. They have warned that pasting of posters will make the individual or firm liable for imprisonment up to a term of six months. Or a fine of ₹1,000 will be imposed.

According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), there may be some rearranging of security personnel in stations to ensure safety.

BJP releases report card for Maharashtra

Most of the 100 promises made in 2014 have been fulfilled, says party spokesperson

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday released a report card of its performance past five years claiming to have fully met the promises made during the 2014 elections in Maharashtra.

The party claims to have fulfilled the promise to implement the cow slaughter prevention laws while implementing the policy for building cowsheds across the State. A copy of the card will be distributed to the voters in every constituency the party is contesting in, along with the latest manifesto, which is likely to be released soon, the party said.

After releasing the report, party leadership claimed it has made the State load-shedding free and even removed the local body tax, as was promised in the previous manifesto.

Among other promises



Call to arms: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari accompanying Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who filed his nomination for the Nagpur (West) seat, on Saturday. • PTI

fulfilled were giving 12-hour power supply to agriculture and industrial sector, reservation for Maratha community and reservation for the poor on the basis of income, the report said.

“We had made near 100 promises to the voters last elections and have fulfilled most,” said senior spokesperson Madhav Bhandari, while releasing the 25-page report.

It lists achievements which include beginning the construction of the Ambedkar Memorial at Mumbai’s Indu Mill, pension provision for retired journalists and pension for farmers.

Swaraj India puts out Haryana manifesto

Party proposes an integrated programme to create 20 lakh additional jobs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Swaraj India on Saturday released its manifesto for the Haryana Assembly election, setting out a plan for creating 20 lakh additional jobs in the next five years.

“Unemployment is the most critical issue that Haryana is facing. Through our manifesto ‘Iman Patra’, we have come out with a serious proposal to address it,” Swaraj India chief Yogendra Yadav said here.

“Our manifesto is not about a series of promises; instead, it is one integral programme, which has seven



Yogendra Yadav

missions for education, health, farming, environment, civic amenities, economy and revenue generation. The aim is to achieve full employment. We are going to do it by doling out

some unemployment allowance. In a way that builds an economy. On the one hand, people are waiting for jobs and on the other hand, there are jobs waiting for people. Our seven missions will help to open employment avenues, which will contribute to the rebuilding of Haryana,” he said.

“We propose an additional expenditure of ₹20,000 crore every year on our missions to provide employment to 20 lakh unemployed people. In order to implement our schemes, along with government savings and recovery of dues, there

will be an additional tax on vacant plots in urban areas. Besides, we will check corruption in the mining business,” said Mr. Yadav.

Swaraj India’s State chairman Rajeev Godara said the party had set the agenda for politics in this election. “For the first time, a party is presenting a comprehensive plan, not a list of promises or announcements. A plan for building the future is being presented instead of promises. We are presenting the details of our plan, explaining how it will be implemented and what will be achieved in five years,” he said.

New Delhi and Dhaka fail to ink deal on river waters

Agreement signed to share data on ports for improved connectivity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh on Saturday failed to conclude a framework agreement to optimise the use of waters from six rivers including the Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar, which has been discussed for several months.

According to a joint statement issued after the bilateral meeting between visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two leaders have directed officials to complete the six-river agreement as well as a feasibility study for the Ganga-Padma barrage project as part of an upgraded version of the 1996 Ganga Water Sharing treaty.

No progress was also reported on the long pending Teesta water sharing agreement either, said the joint statement, but “Prime Minis-



Sheikh Hasina

ter Modi informed that his government is working with all stakeholders in India for conclusion of the Agreement soonest possible,” indicating that West Bengal Chief Minis-

ter Mamata Banerjee has not withdrawn her opposition to the agreement.

In other major agreements on river water issues, Bangladesh has agreed to allow India to withdraw 1.82 cusecs water from the Feni river for a drinking water supply project in Tripura.

Procedural data for the use of two Bangladeshi ports for goods from India was also exchanged as the two sides committed to greater connectivity between the two countries.

The other issue that came up during the bilateral talks

Jammu traders seek riders on land purchase

‘Outsiders must spend time here’

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry has demanded “riders” on purchase of land and investments by outsiders in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the revocation of special status to the State under Article 370.

Its president Rakesh Gupta told *The Hindu* that J&K does not have huge chunks of land to offer and the removal of special status should not make it a hub of only “sale and purchase.”

Mr. Gupta led a delegation of traders that met Governor Satyapal Malik and several State officials.

Himachal model

“One suggestion we gave to the government is that if someone is serious to settle down here and do business, there has to be some sort of a rider like the neighbouring State of Himachal... if that is not the case, then the prices [of land] will go up and the common man will not be able to afford to buy land here. At the same time there is not a huge chunk of land to be offered because laws are such that you cannot build houses, factories

on agricultural land, there is some land that belongs to the State,” he said.

The delegation wanted riders if a person wants to settle down in J&K.

“Registration of property should be done only after the person who has come from outside has spent a certain number of years here. In Himachal, you [people outside the State] can buy a flat but not land, there is a certain time period,” Mr. Gupta noted.

The president of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce Sheikh Ashiq Ahmed could not be contacted for comment.

Prominent business leaders of the Kashmir Valley were arrested in the run-up to August 5 when Union Home Minister Amit Shah moved two Bills in the Rajya Sabha to revoke the special status to the State under Article 370 and bifurcate it into Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Mubeen Shah, ex-president of the Kashmir Chamber, and Mohammed Yasin Khan, chairman of the Kashmir Economic Alliance, were arrested and are currently lodged in Uttar Pradesh jails.

CPI(M) mulls age ceiling for top panels

SOBHANA K NAIR
NEW DELHI

In a bid to bring in fresh faces, the CPI(M) is planning to bring in an age ceiling for members of its decision-making bodies, from the State committees to the Central Committee (CC), and eventually the Polit Bureau.

The idea was discussed during the three-day CC meeting that concluded on October 4. The CC’s final report will be sent to the State committees before a proposal is shaped.

According to sources, during the debate on the issue, many members suggested a two-way age ceiling: first, there should be a retirement age for the members of all bodies, including the Polit Bureau; and second, no new member above a certain age should be inducted in any of the fora.

INLD hand in glove with the BJP, says Congress

‘Friendly match to fool the public’

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

After the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), once the principal Opposition party in Haryana, failed to field a candidate from the high-profile Karnal Assembly constituency against Chief Minister and BJP leader Manohar Lal Khattar, eyebrows are being raised over the episode in the political circles.

Haryana Congress president Kumari Selja on Saturday alleged that the INLD was hand in glove with the ruling BJP.

“They are playing a friendly match to fool the public. But, they have been exposed and the people of Haryana will teach them a lesson in the upcoming Assembly polls by defeating both parties,” Ms. Selja told *The Hindu*.

The INLD has played down the matter, saying that its candidate could not file the nomination as he was not able to reach the office of the Returning Officer on time.

The Congress has announced Tarlochan Singh as its candidate.

Haque denied that they were holding anyone back.

“We have twice made facilities for Rohingyas to go back so we have not stopped anyone from going back whose citizenship has been verified [by Myanmar]. The border is open from our side and we want them to go back as soon as possible,” he said.

Ms. Hasina also invited Mr. Modi to visit Bangladesh for the birth centenary celebrations of her father and the founder of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, next year, which he is expected to accept.

IN BRIEF

Digvijaya urges BJP to clear its stand on Godse

BJP leaders organising rallies to mark Mahatma Gandhi's birthday should tell people whether his assassin Nathuram Godse was a patriot or not, senior Madhya Pradesh Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said here on Saturday. He said BJP's ideology was in contrast to Gandhian philosophy.

Authoritative leadership will do good: BJP leader

Global politics is undergoing a change as a new era of "authoritative leadership", which can do better for the people, has started and India is also witnessing the same under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP general secretary Ram Madhav said. He was talking at the launch of the book Bharat Kaise Hua Modimaye.

RJD leader wants sedition case annulled

RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tiwary on Saturday sought Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's intervention to annul the sedition case against 49 well known personalities who had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to put a check on the growing incidents of mob lynching.

Chidambaram expresses anguish over universities

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Saturday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 'Einstein challenge' to students, asking when the country's universities would become havens of freedom of thought and expression. Mr. Chidambaram, is currently lodged in Tihar Jail.

INTERVIEW | KARAMBIR SINGH

Navy looking at electric propulsion to cut down on fossil fuels

India intends to use the new technology for Landing Platform Docks as well as future ships, says Navy chief

DINAKAR PERI GOA On October 4-5, the Navy hosted the second edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) attended by 10 Indian Ocean littoral states and observers from a few friendly foreign countries. It was set up in 2017 to identify common threats in the region and evolve cooperative mechanisms to tackle them. In a brief conversation on the sidelines of the GMC, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh spoke about the conclave, India's push for regional cooperation and the indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

What is the outcome and takeaways from GMC 2019?

The whole aim was that its a smaller grouping of like-minded countries. So if we can get some outcomes especially in areas which are non-controversial and which con-

cerns all of us. My intention is to try and come out with some common issues like Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), share information and get a common operating picture. That is our pitch mainly. Also a lot of training and exercising together.

What are the areas in which littoral states want assistance from India?

Bilaterally there are a lot of issues. Mainly the focus is on capacity building for smaller countries providing them some hardware, ships. Then capability enhancement by providing training. Its mostly centred around that. Some of the common concerns they want to help us out. Information exchange for common picture, intelligence sharing concerning terrorism, drugs and trafficking. Those are the major areas.

There has been talk of India



The Light Combat Aircraft is a technology demonstrator

being the hub for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) efforts in the region. Is there some movement on that front?

We are not a hub. In the Indian Ocean Naval Symposi-

um (IONS) we have taken the initiative to form the working group and helped formulate the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on HADR. Idea is when we are confronted, that time we don't start searching for common SOPs.

At the conclave, you briefly talked of Navy using electric propulsion to power its ships in future. Can you elaborate on it?

Electric propulsion is at a nascent stage. There are few countries which have the technology. First we have set up a Medium Voltage (MV) lab in Valsura, Gujarat so we can train people and understand the full complexities of electric propulsion. For our future ships, the Landing

Platform Docks and the second Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-II) we intend to have electric propulsion.

I mentioned electric propulsion in the context of the green efforts of the Navy. We are looking at electric propulsion to cut down on use of diesel and fossil fuels. We even tried using the green fuel that the U.S. had to offer, by adding an additive. But that has not really worked.

The indigenous Naval Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) recently had its first arrested landing on the Shore Based Test Facility in Goa. What is the way forward for the programme?

This LCA is a technology demonstrator. We will assist

the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in this effort. But the one which we want, we are making the Quality Requirements (QR) for it, a twin engine deck based fighter. If it meets the QRs and in the correct time frame, we will take it. These QRs are separate from the ongoing tender for 57 carrier based fighters.

What is the status of IAC-II?

We have to take it up... The Navy is keen. If you see the blueprint of the 1950s, it is built on three aircraft carriers so that two are always available while one is in repairs. We are very much looking forward for the government to take a decision on it.

Four-fold hike in monetary aid announced for battle casualties

Victims to receive ₹8 lakh instead of ₹2 lakh; various other schemes also mooted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a four-fold increase in monetary assistance for battle casualties - from ₹2 lakh to ₹8 lakh. The amount will be granted under the Army Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (ABCWF), the Defence Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

"Earlier, there was a provision of financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to the battle casualties which are fatal, 60% above disability, battle casualties invalidated out due to disability and ₹1 lakh to disability less than 60%," the statement said.

The ABCWF was set up in

July 2017 under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (ESW) after a large number of people offered to provide monetary assistance to the families of battle casualties following an avalanche in February 2016 on the Siachen glacier in which 10 soldiers were buried. The ABCWF was implemented retrospectively with effect from April 2016, the Ministry stated.

The fund was created under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890 and a bank account was opened with Syndicate Bank in New Delhi for the public to deposit money, the statement said.

This fund is in addition to



Rajnath Singh

the various schemes for the welfare of NoK (next of kin) and children of battle casualties in the form of additional ex-gratia. In addition to the above assistance, the existing monetary grant includes ex-gratia (central) for various

ranks ranging from ₹25 lakh to ₹45 lakh and Army group insurance, ranging from ₹40 lakh to ₹75 lakh.

Also ₹60,000 under the death link insurance scheme, DLICS (JCO/Ors), ₹15,000 under the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA), full reimbursement of tuition fees for wards, up to 70% concession on railway tickets and marriage grant for daughters, widow remarriage and orphan son's marriage of battle casualties (fatal) and physical casualties (fatal) are also among the immediate & long-term assistance provided by the Ministry, the statement added.

End use of legal size paper, CJI urged

A4 sheets are more economical to photocopy, law students say in letter

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Three law students have written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi to drop the colonial practice of using legal size paper across courts in India and opt for the commonly available A4 size sheets for case records.

"The government and corporates are the biggest litigants, both of which carry out their internal affairs by use of A4 size paper. Use of legal size paper is only the result of British colonial practice, which is still being continued without any logic. Even in countries like the

U.K. and U.S., their entire legal system make use of A4 size paper," they said.

Besides, Abhinav Singh, Akriti Agarwal and Lakshya Purohit informed the CJI that A4 paper was more economical to photocopy, given the numerous copies of case records courts require litigants to file. Photocopying was a separate industry within court complexes. Copies of pleadings depended on the number of parties, records and also the number of judges on the Bench.

For example, in the Ayodhya appeals, the court records alone filled 15 huge



The Supreme Court rules mandate A4 sheets but they have been ignored.

steel boxes. The five civil suits had numerous defendants.

Copies had to be made for each one, and most importantly, five separate copies of every record for each of the judges on the Bench. The photocopies alone would

cost a fortune for the litigants.

The letter pointed out that photostat vendors charged ₹2 for copying the legal size paper and ₹1 for A4 paper.

For the CJI, who heads the Ayodhya Bench, the September 30 letter from the three students may come as an eye-opener.

In fact, the Supreme Court rules also mandate A4 size sheets. But old habits die hard in legal practice, and the rule is ignored.

The students told the CJI that even the U.K. and U.S. Supreme Courts did not use legal size sheets and preferred their more modern A4 counterparts mostly because the latter were easily available.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (NIEPMD) (Divyangjan)
2. TEACHING LEARNING MATERIALS KITS (MENTALLY RETARDED)
ODISHA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT
THRISSUR FOREST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
COCHIN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (CSEZA)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
KAKKANAD, COCHIN - 37

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
Office of the Executive Engineer
VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.3 Arasikere
Ph: 08174233111 e-mail: eeypd3ask@gmail.com
Corrigendum-1 Ref: 1. SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION /TN-02/2019-20/478 Dated: 28.08.2019

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
No. 1, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010.
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR COLLECTION OF ROAD USER FEE
Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCCL) intends to invite bids from reputed agencies for collection of road user fee at the below mentioned road stretch.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, BBMP
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, (SWD) R. R. Nagar Zone BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below, (Standard Bid Documents KW-4)

Saudi Arabia, Iran work towards talks

Saudi Crown Prince asked leaders of Iraq and Pakistan to reach out to Tehran for de-escalation

**FARNAZ FASSIHI
BEN HUBBARD**

After years of growing hostility and competition for influence, Saudi Arabia and Iran have taken steps toward indirect talks to try to reduce the tensions that have brought West Asia to the brink of war, according to officials from several countries involved in the efforts.

Even the prospect of such talks represents a remarkable turnaround, coming only a few weeks after a coordinated attack on Saudi oil installations led to bellicose threats in the Gulf.

It was President Donald Trump's refusal to retaliate against Iran for the September 14 attack, analysts say, that set off unintended consequences, prompting Saudi Arabia to seek its own solution to the conflict. That solution, in turn, could subvert Mr. Trump's effort to build an Arab alliance to isolate Iran.

In recent weeks, officials of Iraq and Pakistan said, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman asked the leaders of those two



Easing tensions: A damaged pipeline at the Saudi Aramco oil facility in Khurais. •REUTERS/FILE

countries to speak with their Iranian counterparts about de-escalation.

Iran welcomed the gestures, stating privately and publicly that it was open to talks with Saudi Arabia.

Offer for mediation
In a statement to *The New York Times* on Friday, the Saudi government acknowledged that Iraq and Pakistan had offered to mediate talks

between the two countries but denied that Crown Prince Mohammed had taken the initiative.

"Efforts at de-escalation must emanate from the party that began the escalation and launched attacks, not the kingdom," the statement said.

Distrust between the two West Asian powers remains intense, and the prospect of high-level direct talks any

time soon appears remote. But even a slight warming could echo far outside their respective borders, where their rivalry fuels political divides from Lebanon to Yemen.

Iran has long wanted to wrest the Saudis from their alliance with Iran's archenemies, Israel and the U.S.

The new overtures between Saudi Arabia and Iran began in the aftermath of last

month's drone and cruise missile strikes on two Saudi oil facilities, which Saudi Arabia and the U.S. accused Iran of orchestrating.

No war
Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan met with Crown Prince Mohammed, the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia, in Jiddah last month. Days later, while Mr. Khan was at the General Assembly, he told reporters that the Crown Prince had asked him to talk to Iran.

Crown Prince Mohammed told Mr. Khan, "I want to avoid war," according to a senior Pakistani official. "He asked the Prime Minister to get involved."

Mr. Khan then spoke with Mr. Rouhani on the sidelines of the General Assembly. The Iraqi Prime Minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi, visited Saudi Arabia a few days after Mr. Khan did. A key Iraqi official said that Crown Prince Mohammed asked Mr. Mahdi to mediate with Iran and that Iraq had suggested Baghdad as the venue for a potential meeting. NY TIMES

Trump signs proclamation to block visas for uninsured

It does not apply to asylum seekers, refugees or children

**ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON**

Immigrants applying for U.S. visas will be denied entry into the country unless they can prove they can afford health care, according to a proclamation signed on Friday by President Donald Trump.

The rule applies to people seeking immigrant visas from abroad and not those already residing in the U.S.. It does not affect lawful permanent residents. It does not apply to asylum seekers, refugees or children.

Families affected
However, it would apply to the spouses and parents of U.S. citizens. That could have an impact on families who are trying to bring their parents to the U.S.

The proclamation says immigrants will be barred from entering the country unless they are to be covered by health insurance within 30 days of entering or have enough financial resources



Donald Trump

to pay for any medical costs. The measure will be effective November 3.

The Trump administration is trying to move away from a family-based immigration system and into a merit-based system, and Friday's proclamation is another effort to limit immigrant access to public programmes.

The Trump administration earlier this year made sweeping changes to regulations that would deny green cards to immigrants who use some forms of public assistance.

The White House also di-

rected officials to recover income-based welfare payments from sponsors, and proposed a rule requiring verification of immigration status for anyone seeking access to public housing benefits.

The required insurance can be purchased individually or provided by an employer, and it can be short-term coverage or catastrophic.

Medicaid doesn't count. And an immigrant will not be able to obtain a visa if he is using the Affordable Care Act's subsidies when buying insurance. Those subsidies are paid for by the Federal government.

"While lawful immigrants qualify for ACA subsidies, they'll be stuck in a catch-22 because subsidised coverage does not qualify as insurance under the proclamation," tweeted Larry Levitt, executive vice president for health policy at Kaiser Family Foundation, a health care policy think tank.

On Hong Kong streets, protesters defy mask ban

Violence justifies emergency law: Lam



Police restraining a couple wearing face masks in the Central district in Hong Kong on Saturday. •AFP

**REUTERS
HONG KONG**

Hong Kong's metro system stayed shut on Saturday, paralysing transport in the Asian financial hub, and malls and shops closed early after a night of chaos in which police shot a teenage boy and protesters torched shops and metro stations.

Friday's protests across the Chinese-ruled city erupted hours after its embattled leader, Carrie Lam, invoked colonial-era emergency powers for the first time in more than 50 years to ban the face masks demonstrators use to hide their identities.

The night's "extreme violence" justified the use of the emergency law, Beijing-backed Ms. Lam said in a television address on Saturday.

"The radical behaviour of rioters took Hong Kong through a very dark night, leaving society today half-

paralysed," she said in pre-recorded remarks.

"The extreme violence clearly illustrated that Hong Kong's public safety is widely endangered. That's the concrete reason that we had to invoke emergency law yesterday to introduce the anti-mask law."

But undeterred by the ban and transport shutdown, several hundred pro-democracy protesters, many wearing masks, took to the streets on Saturday, marching through the normally bustling central district of Causeway Bay.

Other groups gathered in Sheung Shui and Tsim Sha Tsui districts as the sun began to set.

"We're not sure what is going to happen later, but we felt we had to get out and show our basic right to wear a mask," said one protester, Sue, 22, who wore a black mask and dark glasses to the Causeway Bay march.

Iran frees Australian blogger couple

They returned home in a possible 'swap' for a student wanted in the U.S.

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY**

An Australian travel-blogging couple held in Iran on spying charges have been freed and returned home, authorities said on Saturday, in a possible swap for an Iranian student wanted in the U.S.

Perth-based Jolie King and Mark Firkin had been documenting their journey from Australia to Britain on social media for the past two years, but went silent after posting

updates from Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan about three months ago.

The pair, who have tens of thousands of followers on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, were alleged to have used a drone to take pictures of "military sites and forbidden areas", an Iranian judiciary spokesman said last month.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said they were released after "very sensitive negotiations" and

had been reunited with their family in Australia.

"We are extremely happy and relieved to be safely back in Australia with those we love," the couple said in a statement issued by the foreign ministry in Canberra.

"While the past few months have been very difficult, we know it has also been tough for those back home who have been worried for us."

Hours later, state media in Tehran said an Iranian stu-

dent held in Australia for 13 months on accusations of circumventing U.S. sanctions on military equipment had also been released and returned home.

Australia's Attorney General Christian Porter confirmed in a statement that he had stopped the extradition of Reza Dehbashi to the U.S.

But he dismissed "speculation" over the case, amid media reports that it could be part of a prisoner swap involving the bloggers.

Iraq tense as toll rises to 81

Top officials meet protest leaders to discuss their demands

**REUTERS
BAGHDAD**

Clashes between police and protesters killed five people in Baghdad on Saturday in a resumption of anti-government unrest, as security forces deployed in their hundreds to keep demonstrations away from central squares in the Iraqi capital.

Police snipers shot at demonstrators and several people were wounded in eastern Baghdad, Reuters reporters said. Police also fired live rounds at demonstrators in the southern city of Nassiriya, where at least 18 people were killed this week.

At least 81 people have been killed and hundreds injured in four days of violent



Iraqi security forces closing access to a road in Baghdad on Saturday. •AP

unrest, according to police and medical sources.

The new clashes shattered a day of relative calm after authorities lifted a curfew and traffic moved normally in the centre of the capital city.

Officials from Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's office met protest leaders from

Baghdad and other provinces to discuss their demands, state television reported.

Mr. Mahdi and President Barham Salih said they would seek to meet the demands, but gave no details how exactly they would respond.

The unrest is the deadliest Iraq has seen since the declared defeat of Islamic State in 2017 and has shaken Mr. Mahdi's year-old government. The government has responded with vague reform promises that are unlikely to placate Iraqis.

The protests over lack of jobs and services and government corruption erupted on Tuesday in Baghdad and quickly spread to other Iraqi cities.

Taliban, U.S. envoy meet after impasse over deal

U.S. officials rule out peace talks

**ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL**

The Taliban met with U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in the Pakistan capital for the first time since President Donald Trump declared a peace deal to end Afghanistan's war 'dead' a month ago, a Taliban official said on Saturday.

U.S. officials, however, have been keen to say there is no resumption of peace talks, at least not now in Islamabad.

Still, the meeting is significant as the U.S. seeks an exit from Afghanistan.

Mr. Khalilzad has been in Islamabad for much of the week meeting with senior

government officials in what the U.S. State Department described as follow-up meetings he held in New York during last month's U.N. General Assembly session. At the time he met Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has been calling for a resumption of peace talks.

The Taliban delegation, led by Mullah Baradar, arrived separately in the Pakistani capital for meetings with government officials. They reportedly held discussion on a wide range of political issues relating to the more than 1.5 million Afghans still living as refugees in Pakistan.

ELSEWHERE



Six elephants slip off Thailand waterfall, die
BANGKOK
Six wild elephants drowned after slipping off a waterfall in Thailand, authorities said. Two of the elephants were saved after they got stranded while attempting to save one of those that fell. AFP

U.S. state upholds e-cigarette ban
NEW YORK
The U.S. State of Massachusetts has upheld a ban on e-cigarettes. Eighteen deaths in 15 states have now been positively linked to vaping since March, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. AFP

SUDOKU

1			4					
	9	8		7		2	5	
			8	6		7		1
				3			1	
	8						6	
	4			8				
5		6		4	2			
	1	4		9		6	7	
				3				2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	9	6	4	8	1	7	3
4	7	3	1	2	9	6	8	5
1	8	6	5	3	7	4	9	2
3	4	2	7	5	1	8	6	9
7	6	1	8	9	2	3	5	4
8	9	5	4	6	3	7	2	1
9	5	7	3	8	4	2	1	6
2	3	8	9	1	6	5	4	7
6	1	4	2	7	5	9	3	8

China masters propaganda for the Instagram age

The ruling party is competing with short videos, Hollywood movies and mobile games for the public's attention

LI YUAN

Lu Yingxin has been singing "My People, My Country" for the past week. An earnest propaganda anthem from 1985, the song typically wouldn't stand a chance against Taylor Swift, K-pop and other modern tunes the 18-year-old college student and her friends like to listen to.

Then, on Sunday, Ms. Lu and her roommates saw a hit Chinese movie of the same name. It depicts major events in recent Chinese history – its first nuclear bomb test, the Hong Kong handover from Britain and the Beijing Olympics, among others – through the eyes of ordinary people.

Its theme song is a polished cover of the 1985 version, sung by Faye Wong, the breathy Chinese superstar. It left them in tears, Ms. Lu said.

Then they shed more tears while watching Tuesday's parade in Beijing cele-



Patriotic display: Youngsters taking pictures of tanks returning to their base after a parade in Beijing on October 1. •NYT

brating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, a procession replete with images of progress and sacrifice.

Complex truth
It's easy to dismiss this outpouring of patriotism as evidence of the Communist Party's successful brainwashing of the Chinese people, or as a result of heavy surveillance

and heavy-handed tactics against dissenters.

The truth is more complex. The Communist Party indeed doesn't hesitate to use state power to tell the Chinese people how they should think. But the displays of patriotism, especially from young people, also show that the party's propaganda machine has mastered the power of symbol and symbolism in the mass me-

dia and social media era.

That's why Ms. Lu can't stop singing a song she first learned in a patriotism class in her elementary school. "It was beautiful. But it was also part of the patriotism education, so it felt forced," she said. "After I watched the movie and the military parade, I sang it from the bottom of my heart."

Beijing may be still struggling to influence the outside world more effectively, but at home it has learned how to compete with short videos, Hollywood movies and mobile games for the public's attention span. While imposing tight censorship, the Communist Party has also learned to lean on the most popular artists and the most experienced internet companies to help it instill Chinese with patriotic zeal.

It's propaganda for the Instagram age, if Instagram were allowed in China.

So many people rushed to add a national flag logo to

their profile photos on the WeChat social media platform that the webpage crashed. On Douyin, the Chinese version of the short-video platform TikTok, China's biggest entertainment stars and ordinary people alike posted videos of themselves cupping their hands into a heart shape over their chests. The "My People, My Country" music video has been played 73 million times on Tencent Video.

Full of opportunity
Broadly speaking, Chinese people have reason to be proud of their accomplishments. In 40 years, they have lifted their country out of poverty while avoiding the wars and unrest that have plagued much of the developing world. Modern China has its problems, but most Chinese believe it is still vibrant and full of opportunity.

The Communist Party has tapped into that sentiment,

and has been successfully blurring the line between love for the country and love for the party. For the first time, the flags of the Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army appeared in the military parade along with the national flag.

To blur those lines, the party has turned to potent symbols for the internet age. Its propaganda symbols of old included Lei Feng, a selfless soldier who died in 1962 at the age of 21 after being struck by a falling utility pole.

Today's version of Lei Feng is Azhong, a clean-cut cartoon character.

The *People's Daily*, the Communist Party's official newspaper, created Azhong, a boy from a poor family who is ridiculed by classmates. But he works hard and becomes a top student. Then it compares Azhong to China, saying it also rose from backwardness to power despite victimisation. NY TIMES

WEF hails bank mergers, corporate tax rate reduction

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

Reforms such as the recently-announced bank mergers and corporate tax rate cuts have added to India's attractiveness as an investment destination, World Economic Forum (WEF) MD Sarita Nayyar said in an interview to *The Hindu*.

"One noteworthy and recent move is the merger of the State-run banks in India, which will help to bring about stability in the financial sector," she said. "This will help ensure that the banks have a strong balance sheet which, in turn, will help boost lending and revive economic growth."

"India is still expected to grow by 7.2% according to the Asian Development Bank which still ranks it the second-fastest economy in the whole of the Asia Pacific belt (second only to Bangladesh)," she added. "It makes India an attractive investment destination, given India's workforce, population and potential to grow."

Ms. Nayyar added that the corporate tax rate cuts announced by the government were a much-needed stimulus for the country as well as corporate India, and that these cuts now align India with its south and south East Asian peer countries in terms of the basic corporate tax rate.

Further, she said the cuts provide an opportunity to India Inc. to reinvest their earning and pump it back into the economy.

"As we had seen during the U.S. tax cut initiated by President Trump a year ago, such relief can provide the necessary impetus for growth," Ms. Nayyar said.

Heidelberg, LafargeHolcim join race for Emami Cement

Three others in the fray, Emami selling arm for ₹6,000 crore to cut debt

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Global cement majors LafargeHolcim and Heidelberg Cement have thrown their hat in the ring to buy Emami Cement, according to sources in the know of the development.

Emami Group is disposing of its cement business at an expected valuation of ₹6,000 crore to reduce debt.

LafargeHolcim is learnt to have submitted its expression of interest (Eoi) through its Indian unit Ambuja Cements while German cement major HeidelbergCement Group has submitted its bids



Nuvoco Vistas Corporation, Shree Cements and Dalmia Bharat are learnt to have submitted their Eols. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

through HeidelbergCement India Limited.

A mail sent to HeidelbergCement remained unanswered till the time of going to press while a spokesper-

son for Ambuja Cements declined to comment.

Nirma Group-led Nuvoco Vistas Corporation, Shree Cements and Dalmia Bharat are learnt to have already

INTERVIEW | R. GANDHI

‘Cooperative banks must be professionally managed’

Board of directors must independently assess bank's functioning and be able to question shareholders' representatives

MANOJIT SAHA

Former Deputy Governor of RBI, R. Gandhi, who headed a committee to review the cooperative banking sector in 2015, says the government and the Reserve Bank of India should initiate governance reforms in cooperative banks as recommended by his committee, such as mandating professionally run board of management in these entities. Excerpts:

RBI often imposes restrictions on cooperative banks, the latest being those on the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank. What exactly is the issue with such entities?

■ There has been always a concern over the coopera-

tive banks' governing structure.. The board of directors are appointed based on election by the shareholders.

The governance structure in banks or in other financial institutions is that it should be professionally managed.

And the shareholders' representation should be minimum.

It is the independent directors who are majority.

That is the structure we are unable to bring into the cooperative banks because of the basic nature of the Cooperative Societies Act. Under that, the board of directors is based on election by the shareholders.

How can you bring professionalism to decision-making in cooperative

banks?

■ The RBI had been suggesting, the Malegam Committee suggested earlier, my committee also suggested – since we cannot change the Constitution and even the Cooperative Societies Act derives power from the Constitution – that a board of management in cooperative banks should be delegated powers similar to what commercial banks have given to their boards of directors. This will be the de facto board of directors. That has not been done yet.

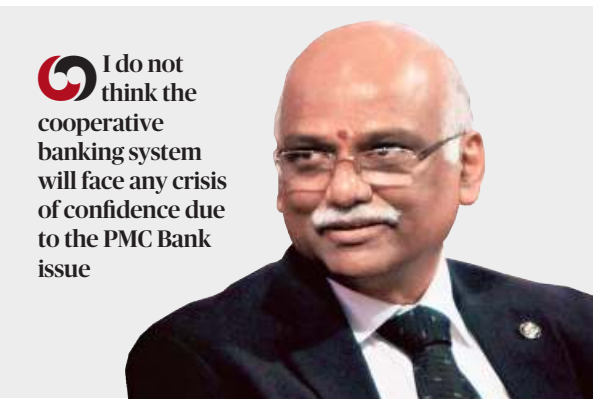
How will that help?

■ What we want is that the board of directors should have independent assess-

Emami Cement operates a 2.5 mtpa integrated plant in Chhattisgarh and a 2.5 mtpa grinding unit in West Bengal

submitted their Eols.

The bidders are studying the financials of Emami Cements, after which asset quality will be analysed before submission of the final bids. Emami Cement operates a 2.5 mtpa integrated plant in Chhattisgarh and a 2.5 mtpa grinding unit in West Bengal. The firm also acquired a 0.6 mtpa grinding plant at Bhabua in Bihar.



ment of the bank's functioning, supervising monitoring. It should have the moral strength to question the shareholders' representative.

So that the line management will have the greater confidence to act professionally.

JBM defers investment

Auto slowdown hits component maker's ₹200-crore plan

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Owing to the slowdown in the automobile sector, auto component maker JBM Auto has deferred its planned investment of about ₹150-200 crore which were to be utilised for capacity expansion.

"We have put all investment in capacity expansion on hold as there is a squeeze on demand and we are cutting down on shifts and readjusting production. We have deferred about ₹150-200 crore of investment plans from this financial year to the second half of next fiscal," Nishant Arya, executive director, JBM Group, told *The Hindu*.

The amount was to be utilised in setting up new fa-

We have put all investments in capacity expansion on hold as there is a squeeze on demand

NISHANT ARYA
ED, JBM Group

cilities for capacity expansion.

Mr. Arya said the company has not asked any of its staff to go as of now. "These are difficult times, that is why we are trying to create a lean structure as an organisation... we are re-deploying people and at the same time seeing how any extra cost can be removed....we are optimising."

He said the company has

reduced the number of shifts from three to two and is trying to enhance productivity in those two shifts rather than having more number of shifts but lesser number of people working in them.

Asked till when he expected the slowdown to continue, he said it is likely to continue for another nine months, particularly due to the transition to new BS VI emission norms.

"In my opinion, the slowdown started from November 2018, and I see it continuing for at least the next nine months till June 2020 because of the transition to BS VI. Additionally, I think more clarity is needed on [the policy for] electric vehicles," Mr. Arya said.

Realtor Migsun to invest ₹900 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Realty firm Migsun Group on Saturday said it will invest around ₹900 crore to develop a housing project in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

The company will develop 2,326 units in this project located at Raj Nagar Extension and out of that, around 850 units will be for economically weaker sections (EWS).

"We are launching our new project in Ghaziabad. We will develop 2,326 units and about 4 lakh sq. ft. of commercial area in this project," Migsun Group managing director Yash Miglani said. The project cost is estimated at around ₹900 crore, he said.

The total built-up area is 3 million sq ft.

Pain from sluggish auto demand continues in Chakan

Recovery likely by mid 2020; export orders bail out some

LALATENDU MISHRA
CHAKAN

Notwithstanding the recent measures to stimulate the economy and provide liquidity to the system, the auto hub of Chakan and Pune in Maharashtra are still reeling under the impact of slow off take of automobiles in the market.

Auto companies and component manufacturers said that the festive season may clear some unsold inventory before BS VI emission norms kick in. There is a feeling that things would be normal by mid 2020. Till then, the hope is that focus on R&D would rise and cost cutting would spur agility.

Despite all the bad news around the sector, companies that have focussed on exports and bagged new customers have managed to offset poor domestic sales.

Stating that sales have been under pressure for the past few months, Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Martin Schwenk said "We adjusted our production many months in advance when we saw we might run into some issues. Now we are confident with the reduced plans."

"On the dealer side, liquidity was a bigger problem. We supported them through our Daimler Financial Services where we could. We reduced dealers' stocks. The problem has not gone [away] yet," he added.

He said that in September, the company saw 25% higher traffic and enquiries at showrooms compared to a slump month such as August. "We may not be able to meet the 2018 numbers. Our Q3 will be below the Q3 of last year. We expect better sales in the festive season," he said.

While most component makers have been impacted severely, Flash Electronics (India) Pvt. Ltd., which supplies electric and electronic



Mercedes-Benz India's Martin Schwenk said in September, the firm saw 25% higher traffic at showrooms. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

components and gear boxes to two-wheeler and four-wheeler companies, said it remained insulated due to its product expansion and export strategy.

‘Not hit by slowdown’

"We are not affected by the slowdown. Even this year, we have grown. This is not a slowdown but a correction. This correction happens every 6-7 years. This year, it has been a little more significant for reasons that are not exactly known," said Sanjeev Vasdev, MD, Flash Electronics.

Adding that market sentiment was still weak, he said as leading OEMs have been saddled with high stock, October production plans were pretty subdued or more similar to August or September of this year.

"The situation is not going to return to normal soon. It will take about 8 to 10 months before things can really become normal. The customers need more clarity on electric vehicles and BS VI before making any purchases," Mr. Vasdev said.

He said it was possible for the company to remain insulated as it had acquired new customers and had set up two manufacturing units for forgings and gears which are

now producing at full steam.

"Pitched against my business plan, [my numbers may be] down but year-on-year, I will grow in revenue."

Auto component firms like Kinetic Engineering Ltd. have also managed to offset domestic losses through increased export income.

"The last two quarters have seen significant slowdown," said Chaitanya Koranne, CEO, Kinetic Engineering.

"We have been lucky that one of our customers, Renault, has launched a new vehicle and they have propped up the volume a little," he said. He said it would take about two quarters more for normal to return.

"Since 50-60% of our revenue come from exports, we will be at the same level as last year," he added.

Viraj Kalyani, founder and CEO, Kalyani Studio, which develops high tech productivity enhancement equipment for OEMs, said he had seen a lot of interest from OEMs for his products in the last six months.

"There has not been a tapering of interest or demand from customers. In challenging times, OEMs look at improving efficiency. They are more invested in improving their products to be globally competitive," he said.

Classic Legends to unveil 3 new Jawa variants

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Classic Legends Pvt. Ltd., a part of the Mahindra group, which manufactures and sells the iconic bike Jawa in India, is planning to expand its model offerings in the country to cater to a larger customer base.

The company, which had acquired British motorcycle maker BSA Co. Ltd., is also exploring the possibility of launching the BSA motorcycle in Europe post Brexit, said a top executive.


"We want to create a decent-sized product portfolio. Three more Jawa bikes with different technology and engine configuration will be introduced in the next 18 months. We will be announcing more details on the product plan on our first anniversary on November 15, 2019," said Ashish Joshi, CEO, Classic Legends Pvt Ltd.

Jawa, a 'Czechoslovakia' brand whose production was stopped in India in 1970, was resurrected by Classic Legends last year and is under production at its facility at Pithampur in Madhya Pradesh.

By ramping up production, the firm has brought down the waiting period from 9-10 months to 6-7 months now, Mr. Joshi said.

It has increased its dealership network from 5 to 105 in 87 cities and has been accepting bookings, though the product has been sold out till March 31, 2010, Mr. Joshi added. He said the firm was BS VI ready. Jawa sees more buyers from cities such as Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi, Chandigarh and Cochin. Over 60% of customers are in the age group of 23-29 years.

While Jawa will cater to India, ASEAN and some neighbouring countries, BSA is targeted at Europe.



Bus's

Mid Year

Efficieint

Rainy whether

Could'nt


Nonhappy

I doesn't

Sheeps


Sit hear

Ran of



This Dussehra, win over common errors in your English communication.

Improve your English skills through a range of online courses offered by STEP.



To know more, visit **BIT.LY/STEPDASARA**



KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

permanently". The amendment shortened the period of residency from 12 to seven years for gaining citizenship by naturalisation. The Bill had also empowered the government to cancel registration as Overseas Citizen of India in case of any violation of the Citizenship Act or any other laws.

The petitioners have contended that the leeway offered by the subordinate laws would further multiply the “uncontrolled influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh to Assam”. Illegal immigration has caused huge demographic changes in the northeastern State, the petitioners have claimed. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna issued notice on the plea filed by Assam State Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind and had ordered its tagging with a similar pending petition of “Nagarikatwa Ain Songsudhan Birodhi Mancha” (Forum Against Citizenship Act Amendment Bill).

SERISH NANISSETTI

According to one account, the Nizam spent nearly £20 million in cash to equip his army to fight the Indian Army

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Russia has traditionally been India's biggest defence supplier, but was surpassed by the U.S. in the last few years, a fact that had added to a perceptible drift in bilateral ties. Mr. Putin and Mr. Modi addressed this drift with a special "reset" summit in Sochi last May, which was followed by Mr. Putin's visit to Delhi on October 5, 2018, when the deal was announced. The Indian Air Force has also backed the superior air defence system in that it will fill the gap in India's particular needs: countering its main adversaries and neighbours, China and Pakistan's growing air power, while dealing with a depleting stock of fighter aircraft.

1960: Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and



Why did the case drag on for over 70 years?

On September 7, 1948, the Nizam's army surrendered to India ending a 105-hour war. The transfer of money took place on September 20. On September 27, the Nizam wired the Governor-General of India and the Deputy Prime Minister of India seeking transfer of the money back to his account. The bank refused. (*See chronology*)

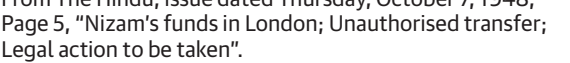
Najaf Ali Khan, a grandson of the Nizam has said: "We are delighted with the verdict. But we have to watch what Pakistan does as it has four weeks time to go in for an appeal. Only if Pakistan doesn't appeal at this stage the money will come to us." The Nizam had 18 sons and 16 daughters. In the present case, the titular Nizam VIII, Mukarram Jah, who lives in Turkey transferred his interest in the fund to Hillview Assets Holdings Limited (Hillview). His brother, Prince Muffakam Jah, who shuttles between India and the U.K., was vital to the case and gave evidence which was relied on by the judge to reach his verdict. The judge also referred to an agreement between the Government of India and the princes about how the monies will be divided. The details of the agreement are not available. While much of the royal relics of the Asaf Jahis who ruled between 1724 till 1948 have disappeared in Hyderabad, it is Mukarram Jah's former wife, Princess Esra Jah, who has salvaged two palaces (in Hyderabad) that have become show-stoppers.



By coincidence, CAATSA has now been invoked by the United States twice already, and both times for countries buying the Triumf system from Russia. In September 2018, the U.S. State Department and Treasury Department announced sanctions on China's Equipment Development Department (EDD), the military branch responsible for weapons and equipment, for the procurement of the S-400 Triumf air defence system and Sukhoi S-35 fighter aircraft. The sanctions were triggered when the People's Liberation Army's took delivery of the systems. Washington expelled Turkey from the F-35 fighter jet programme in July this year after the first delivery of S-400s was received, and says sanctions are still under consideration unless Turkey reverses its deal with Russia. India is neither like China, which has an inimical relationship with the U.S., and hence not bound by its diktats, nor like Turkey which is a NATO ally of the U.S. and expected to comply with Washington's demands, and hence hopes to escape CAATSA sanctions.

Written into the CAATSA language is also an exit clause, which states that “The [US] President may waive the application of [CAATSA] sanctions if the President determines that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.” In August 2018, the U.S. Congress also modified the waiver clause to allow the President to certify that a country is “cooperating with the United States Government on other matters that are critical to United States’ strategic national security interests”. Government officials including Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Mr. Jaishankar have all expressed the hope that the U.S. will exercise this waiver for the S-400 deal to India for a number of reasons: that a militarily stronger India is in the U.S.’s interests, and that India cannot completely drop its traditional dependence on Russian

2019: In October, British court rules the money must go to the Nizam's descendants and India.



The Falaknuma Palace with its faux Gothic and Roman elements has been restored to allow the well-heeled to have a peek at the expansive lifestyle of kings. The palace includes one of the longest dining tables that can seat 101 persons and a breathtaking view of the old city. The Chowmahalla Palace, where the Nizam VIII was crowned, is open to tourists for a small fee. Mukarram Jah has led a reclusive life spending some years in the Australian outback and later in Turkey indulging in his fancy for machines that range from sleek cars to earthmovers. A few earthmovers can still be seen in the palace at the rear of KBR Park in the western part of Hyderabad. Princess Esra's dream remains putting on show the Nizam's jewels on a permanent basis in Hyderabad. "The gems belong to the city. They should be showcased here," she had told this reporter, a few months earlier. The gems, worth billions, were showcased at the National Museum in Delhi early this year.

defence equipment without being weakened. In addition, it is no secret that U.S. President Donald Trump has misgivings about the CAATSA sanctions, which he said were meant to curtail his own powers to deal with Russia, and the other countries included in the act – Iran and North Korea. It is hoped that Mr. Trump will grant India a waiver on the deal, thanks to good bilateral relations with India and the fact that it is a “major defence partner” of the U.S.

any of the U.S.'s "adversaries", and according to the Act, the U.S. President may impose "five or more of the sanctions described". These measures include export sanctions, cancellation of loans from U.S. and international financial institutions, ban on investments and procurement, restrictions on foreign exchange and banking transactions, and a visa and travel ban on

officials associated with any entity carrying out the sanctioned transactions. None of these is expected to go into process until India takes delivery of the five S-400 systems it has paid an advance on, which are expected to begin in about 20 months and conclude by 2023.

India's firm-footed response to the U.S. threat of sanctions on the Russian S-400 is in sharp contrast to its decision to "zero out" oil purchases from Iran, which were sanctioned by the U.S. last year, and denotes that while the government is prepared to diversify its energy sources, it will not be bullied on its defence security options. Given the stakes involved, the government hopes that the U.S. will put its burgeoning strategic, defence and business bilateral relationship with India above its rancour with Russia. If not, however, officials say they are prepared to ride out the storm.



Basis of vision
In a remarkable discovery, researchers have solved the three-dimensional structure of a protein complex involved in vertebrate vision at atomic resolution. This is a finding that has broad implications for our understanding of biological signalling processes and the design of over a third of the drugs on the market today.



Aspirin to the rescue
A study shows nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like aspirin may lessen the adverse effects of air pollution exposure on lung function. The use of any NSAID nearly halved the effect of PM on lung function, with the association consistent across all four weekly air pollution measurements from same-day to 28 days prior to the lung function test.



Milkweed tolerant
Monarch butterflies and a few other insects evolved essentially the same genetic mutations allowing them to eat toxic milkweed without getting sick. Monarch butterflies and caterpillars store the toxins to deter predators. Scientists have now used CRISPR gene editing to make these same mutations in fruit flies, successfully conferring toxin resistance.



Resilient nematode
Caltech scientists have discovered a new species of worm thriving in the extreme environment of Mono Lake, a saline soda lake in California. This new species, temporarily dubbed *Auanema* species can survive 500 times the lethal human dose of arsenic, and carries its young inside its body like a kangaroo.



Redeeming exoskeleton
A 28-year-old tetraplegic patient paralysed from the shoulders down has been able to walk using a pioneering four-limb robotic system, or exoskeleton, that is commanded and controlled by signals from his brain. The study, published in *The Lancet Neurology*, brings new hope for paralysed patients.

IGIB finds a protein with better precision in gene-editing

The new protein was able to correct sickle cell anaemia mutation in patient-derived stem cells

R. PRASAD

Researchers at the Delhi-based Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) have discovered a protein variant from a different species of bacteria that can edit the DNA with very high precision. In the tool now commonly used for editing disease-causing mutations in DNA (CRISPR-Cas9), the Cas9 protein behaves like a molecular scissors that cuts the DNA at a specific location and inserts a foreign piece of DNA to correct the mutation that causes the disease.

In addition to binding to the intended target on the DNA, the commonly used Cas9 protein from *Streptococcus pyogenes* bacteria (SpCas9) and its engineered derivative tend to potentially bind to DNA at multiple unintended sites thereby leading to unnecessary alterations in the DNA.

The researchers found their new Cas9 protein, which binds and cuts the DNA, was able to correct sickle cell anaemia mutation in patient-derived stem cells. The protein (FnCas9) used by the researchers to edit the DNA is derived from a bacterium – *Francisella novicida*.

The Cas9 protein is supposed to bind to the DNA only when there is a perfect match between the DNA and the protein, thus reducing the chances of the protein binding at non-target sites on the DNA. But even when three mismatches exist between the protein and the DNA, the



Improving precision: The newly discovered protein can replace the currently used one which has a propensity to cause unnecessary alterations in the DNA. ■ GETTY IMAGES

currently used SpCas9 protein binds and cleaves the DNA. In contrast, the team led by Debojyoti Chakraborty from IGIB found the new FnCas9 protein showed negligible binding when there exists more than one mismatch in the target DNA. The results were published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS).

High specificity
“The high specificity of the new FnCas9 protein arises due to reduced affinity to bind to DNA when there is even a single mismatch. And when there is more than one mismatch, complete absence of binding of the protein to the DNA is seen in many cases,” says Dr. Chakraborty.

“If the Cas9 protein remains bound to DNA at

mismatched locations for a long time, there is a possibility that it might cut the DNA at these locations. Also, if it remains bound to DNA, the protein might block the transcription (which is the first step in gene expression) at that location. And if Cas9 is bound at multiple unintended sites then the transcription machinery gets stalled and the expression of genes at these locations might be altered,” Dr. Chakraborty explains.

In nature, DNA often gets damaged and is routinely repaired through one of the two pathways. In the case of the homology-directed repair (HDR) pathway, which is relatively less error-prone, matching sequences are used to repair the DNA. “The FnCas9 protein was found to increase the HDR repair rate four-

fold compared to the widely used SpCas9,” says Deepanjan Paul from CSIR-IGIB and one of the first authors of the paper.

Sickle cell anaemia
The researchers tested the precision of binding and cleavage at the desired sites on the DNA using mouse cell lines (embryonic stem cells and brain cells), human kidney cell lines and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSc). In the case of human iPSc cells, the FnCas9 protein was found to bind to the DNA at the specific site, cut and repair the sickle cell anaemia mutation.

“The correction process is the same for any disease-causing mutation and so our FnCas9 protein should theoretically correct any mutation in the DNA. The efficiency might vary, so we

India is home to Asia’s oldest bamboo

Two fossils dating back 25 million years were found in Makum coalfield in Assam

ASWATHI PACHA

With over 49,000 plant species reported as of 2018, India holds about 11.5% of all flora in the world. Now, a new fossil record has shown that India is the birthplace of Asian bamboo, and they were formed about 25 million years ago in the north-eastern part of the country.

Ancient fossils
An international team of researchers found two fossil compressions or impressions of bamboo culms (stems) and after further study noted them to be new species. They were named *Bambusiculmus tirapensis* and *B. makumensis* - as they were found in the Tirap mine of Makum Coalfield in Assam. These belonged to the late Oligocene period of about 25 million years ago.

They also found two impressions of bamboo leaves belonging to new species



Spread from India: This finding strengthens the theory that bamboo spread to Asia from India and not from Europe.

Bambusium deomarense, and *B. arunachalense*, named after the Doimara region of Arunachal Pradesh where it was discovered. These leaves were found in the late Miocene to Pliocene sediments, indicating that they were between 11 and three million years old.

Yunnan Province in China now has the highest diversity of bamboo, but the

oldest fossil in that region is less than 20 million years old, clearly indicating that Asian bamboo was born in India and then migrated there. This finding further strengthens the theory that bamboo came to Asia from India and not from Europe.

Wide niche
“Today, we can see bamboo in a wide range of climatic conditions from as cold as 5

degree C to even 30 degrees C. And at sea level to heights of about 4,000 metres. They can survive in varying rainfall conditions too. We wanted to know what made it develop such a wide environmental niche,” explains Gaurav Srivastava, from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow. He is the first and corresponding author of the paper published recently in the journal *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*.

Role of plate tectonics
In fact, the European bamboo fossil is about 50 million years old. Dr Srivastava explains that the Indian plate collided with the Eurasian plate about 50 million years ago. However, the suturing between the two plates were not completed until 23 million years, meaning the plates were not completely joined, restricting migration of plants and animals.

And also as the Himalayas were not formed yet, the temperature was also warm and humid in the North-eastern region, with not many seasonal variations.

The present climate in the region is cold with strong winter and summer conditions. Bamboo braved these climatic and geographical changes making it the fittest in the survival race.

“Bamboo fossils are not very common in India as they are known only from the Siwalik sediments. We have planned more studies in this region and search for its fossils in older rocks too,” adds Rakesh Chandra Mehrotra, the study head from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences.

Dr. Mehrotra adds that paleobotany is studied only in very few pockets in India. This study has shown that India is a treasure trove of plant fossils and more importance needs to be given to its study.



Watch my mouth: Bonnet macaques have a goal in mind and use gestural communication to fulfil that goal. ■ SHREEJATA GUPTA

Wild bonnet macaques gesture intentionally

This requires complex cognitive capacity

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Gestures are an important aspect of human communication. Until now, gestures in apes were believed to lie at the evolutionary roots of human language. However, a recent study on wild bonnet macaques implies that gestural communication – the basic tools for language – is observed even in that species. Given that monkeys diverged from apes (including humans) much earlier than humans diverged from other apes (such as chimpanzees and gorillas) this finding has an evolutionary significance as well. The study has been published in the journal *Behavioural Processes*.

Species ethogram
Anindya Sinha from National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, who has been studying the behaviour of bonnet macaques in the Bandipur-Mudumalai region for close to 25 years, had developed an ethogram of the species. In essence, a list of objectively-defined behaviours – an ethogram – becomes the reference document for subsequent studies.

Developing on this, the researchers recorded 32 independent gestures made by the bonnet macaques. Of these, they could not identify the context for eight gestures. For the remaining 24 gestures, they were able to identify the context of use. “It would have been perfect if we could get all the behaviours video-graphed,” says Shreejata Gupta who worked on this problem, in an email to The

Hindu. Now a postdoc at York University’s Department of Psychology, she explains how this made it difficult to address some features of intentionality, such as changing body orientation according to the receiver’s orientation.

Differential grooming
“When I first saw the bonnet macaques using their grooming gestures possibly referring to body parts that they intended to be groomed, I was absolutely elated...” she recalls. After accumulating more of these observations, the team published a paper on referential grooming in bonnet macaques, a cognitive capacity that was earlier believed to be restricted to human and non-human apes. This was published in the journal *Animal Cognition*.

“Bonnet macaques have voluntary control over their gestural communicative signals. They have a goal in mind, and they communicate with others to fulfil that goal. The entire process requires complex cognitive capacity, different from an involuntary action such as an alarm call at the sight of a predator,” says Dr Gupta. It has been known earlier that apes such as humans, chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orangutans communicate intentionally. This study extends this behavior to monkeys.

“This continuity of similar cognitive processes underlying communication systems of monkeys and apes imply that our minds have had the building blocks of producing complex language for millions of years,” says Dr Gupta.

Bright light to study ancient scrolls

REUTERS

Scientists at Britain’s national synchrotron facility have harnessed powerful light beams to virtually unwrap and decipher fragile scrolls dating back some 2,000 years in a process they hope will provide new insights into the ancient world.

The two complete scrolls and four fragments - from the so-called Herculaneum library, the only one surviving from antiquity - were buried and carbonised by the deadly eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD and are too fragile to be opened.

The items were examined at the Diamond Light Source facility in Oxfordshire, home to Britain’s synchrotron, a particle accelerator in which beams travel around a closed-loop path to produce light many times brighter than the sun.

“The idea is essentially like a

CT scanner where you would take an image of a person, a three-dimensional image of a person and you can slice through it to see the different organs,” said Laurent Chapon, physical science director of Diamond Light Source.

“We... shine very intense light through [the scroll] and then detect on the other side a number of two-dimensional images. From that we reconstruct a three-dimensional volume of the object... to actually read the text in a non-destructive manner,” Chapon said.

The ink on the scrolls is difficult to see, even through a synchrotron, because it is carbon-based like the papyrus it is written on. But scientists hope the density of the paper will be different where written characters are present.

They hope to decipher what is written on the scrolls.

IISER Pune team synthesises photocatalyst to degrade organic pollutants

The highly unstable perovskite mineral was converted into a robust form capable of decomposing toxic organic pollutants commonly present in water

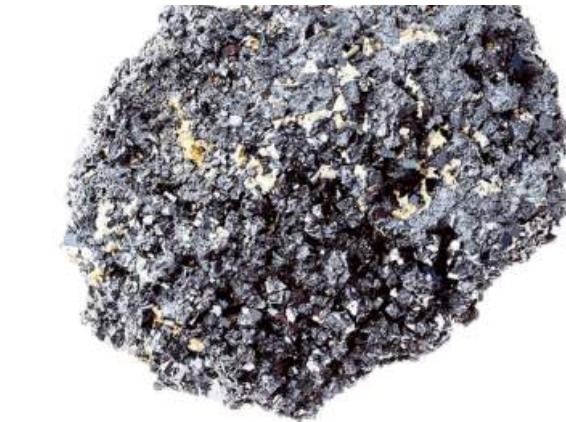
R. PRASAD

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune have successfully converted the highly unstable perovskite into a highly stable photocatalyst capable of decomposing toxic organic pollutants commonly present in water. The catalyst that becomes active when exposed to sunlight was synthesised by encapsulating nanocrystals of organic-inorganic perovskite inside a metal-organic framework (MOF).

The team led by Sujit K. Ghosh from the Department of Chemistry at IISER Pune

utilised the hydrophobic nature of the MOF material to render greater chemical stability to perovskite nanocrystals that form inside the MOF cavities. The perovskite-MOF composites displayed “outstanding” stability when immersed inside water and alcoholic solvents for as long as 90 days.

Stable composite
The composites remained stable in water even when at boiling temperature for 20 days. While perovskite encapsulated by MOF showed 70% similar photoluminescence intensity before and after heat treatment at the end of 20 days, the photolu-



Cleansing water: The catalyst becomes active when exposed to sunlight and degrades the pollutants. ■ GETTY IMAGES

minescence intensity of naked perovskite decreased by 95% in just five hours of heat treatment. Likewise, the photoluminescence intensity of the composite re-

mained almost intact even after being exposed to UV light for 20 days.

It is the hydrophobic nature of MOF that renders chemical, heat and photostability to perovskite.

The researchers found less than 1 ppb of lead metal leached from the composite at the end of 90 days of being exposed to different solvents, including water. “It is possible to replace lead metal with other nontoxic elements to make the composite more efficient and much safer to degrade organic pollutants,” says Dr. Ghosh. The results were published in the journal *ACS Applied Nano Materials*.

It is possible to replace lead metal with other nontoxic elements to make the composite more efficient and much safer to degrade organic pollutants.

SUJIT K. GHOSH
Department of Chemistry

“This is the first time perovskite-based composite material as a photocatalyst has been used for the degradation of toxic organic pollutants such as antibiotics, dyes etc. It will be a cost-effective method to produce clean water,” says Dr. Ghosh.

The researchers tested the composite’s photocatalytic

property to degrade organic pollutants in water. They tested three organic compounds commonly seen pollutants – methyl orange, methyl red and nitrofurazone antibiotic.

Activated by sunlight
“When the composite was exposed to sunlight it was able to degrade the organic pollutants,” says Samraj Mollick from IISER Pune and one of the first authors of the paper. “When exposed to sunlight, the perovskite nanocrystals release electrons into water thus producing hydroxyl radicals. The hydroxyl radicals are highly active species that decomposes the organic pollutants.”

But the rate of degradation of organic pollutants is not high compared with other standard materials. “Compared with other materials, perovskite is inexpensive. It is also possible to scale up its production easily,” says Tarak Nath Mandal, the other first author of the paper.

“This is only a proof-of-concept study. It is possible to increase the degradation rate by using different perovskite and MOF materials,” says Dr. Ghosh.

The researchers were able to recycle the composite thrice and even on the third cycle the composite displayed over 90% degradation capacity.

The election commission in its labyrinth

Two candidates have already claimed lead while the results of Afghan polls are yet to be released

KABUL

The much-delayed Afghan presidential election was held on September 28 with a dismal turnout of nearly 2.6 million voters. However, the low polling numbers, representing less than a third of the 9.6 million registered voters, are less of a concern for the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC) than the actual process of counting valid votes and announcing results.

The IEC had announced that votes not verified by biometric identification would not be included in the final tally, upsetting political figures such as Fazal Hadi Muslimyar, Speaker of the Senate. Mr. Muslimyar, on Tuesday, threatened to get the IEC to count the votes, saying: “We will

make even their father count... How can you violate people’s right?”

While he later apologised for the comments, Mr. Muslimyar stood by the demand to include votes in districts where biometric verification was not possible or unavailable. On the other side, rival candidates, fearing the possibility of fraud and ballot-stuffing, have insisted on including only the votes with biometric verification. The debate has triggered concerns among voters that a potential political crisis is brewing.

Already, two of the major candidates have declared that they have most votes, even though the IEC is yet to finish counting. The preliminary results are scheduled to be released on October 19. “The results will be announced by the IEC, but we have the most votes. The election is not going to go to a second round,” Abdullah Abdullah, the country’s



Chief Executive and President Ashraf Ghani’s main rival in the election, told the local media on September 30. Later that evening, in a separate gathering, Amrullah Saleh, the running mate of President Ghani, made a similar claim. “The information that

we have received show that 60% to 70% of people voted for us,” he said, indicating that a dispute, similar to the one five years ago, can’t be ruled out. Allegations of fraud and corruption in 2014 led to a deadlock despite two rounds of polling. Eventually, the U.S. stepped in and brokered a deal to form a national unity government, led by both President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah.

“Be patient”

The IEC has dismissed the claims of both Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Saleh, and asked the candidates to be patient.

“The Afghanistan Constitution is clear about this. Election management falls under our purview and it is our job to announce the result. Our job is to comply with what the Afghan people have decided and we will soon announce who the Afghans have chosen,” an IEC official told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity. Representatives of both candidates who spoke to *The Hindu* clarified

that their assertions were based on data gathered by election observers and monitors.

Basir Mohamadi, a member of Mr. Saleh’s Afghanistan Green Trend party, assured that their team was waiting for the announcement from the IEC and would respect its decision. “We strongly believed in the elections right from the beginning, even when all others did not have any belief in the elections, had no plan or agenda for it. We’ve had the plan from the start and we implemented it and have campaigned in a timely manner,” he said, while asked why his team was confident that the Ghani-Saleh ticket was in the forefront.

Zalmai Nishat, a senior public policy adviser to the Office of the Chief Executive, said Mr. Abdullah’s comment was a cautious step to reassess the guidelines that only biometric votes would be counted. “The issue was not about questioning the process at all; Dr Abdullah did say we will wait for [the results to be an-

nounced]. But we wanted to reiterate that the guidelines and processes previously agreed upon would be followed strictly,” he said.

“Perhaps there was no need for [Mr. Abdullah] to say what he said, but there are worries that the agreement made beforehand and as per the electoral law of accepting only biometric votes could be violated,” Mr. Nishat said.

According to Afghan election laws, if no candidate secures more than 50% of the votes, a run-off will be held between the two leading candidates. Interestingly, a later date has already been set for the anticipatory second round in November. Many voters expressed the hope that the candidates would respect the eventual decision of the IEC, and that if it comes to the second round, they were willing to step out again to cast their vote. “Voting is our obligation to our country. If you don’t vote, then you don’t have the right to complain about the government,” one of the voters in Kabul said.



Ruchi Kumar is a journalist based in Kabul

In the name of God

At least 1,472 people were charged under the blasphemy law in Pakistan since 1987

LAHORE

Last month, the Supreme Court of Pakistan acquitted Wajih-ul-Hassan of blasphemy charges. Mr. Hassan was accused of writing “blasphemous” letters to a lawyer and was sentenced to death in 2002 by a Lahore court. And he had been in jail since. The Supreme Court said that there was no concrete evidence against him.

The case has revived calls for amendments to Pakistan’s controversial blasphemy laws. “There is no legal or ethical justification for the blasphemy law not to be amended and ultimately repealed,” Brad Adams, Asia director of Human Rights Watch, told *The Hindu*. “Recent cases have once again spotlighted that often the accusation is a pun-

ishment in itself. Prime Minister Imran Khan has repeatedly expressed the intention to make an inclusive and equitable Pakistan. It will not be possible as long as the blasphemy laws remain on the books.”

According to the laws, anyone convicted of insulting Prophet Mohammad can be sentenced to death, and anyone guilty of insulting “any religion” can be jailed for up to 10 years.

The Supreme Court has noted, on many occasions, that people accused of blasphemy suffer “beyond proportion or repair” in the absence of adequate safeguards against misapplication or misuse of such laws, said Reema Omer, legal adviser, South Asia International Commission of Jurists. “In more than 80% blasphemy cases, those convicted by trial courts are acquitted on appeal. In most cases, the reason for acquit-

tal is that the case was registered maliciously for personal/political disputes,” she said. “Yet, not a single person has been prosecuted for instituting malicious cases or giving false testimony... Actors in the criminal justice system, who not only allow but are complicit in such manifest injustices, have also not been held accountable.”

According to London-based Centre for Social Justice, at least 1,472 people were charged under the law between 1987 and 2016. Last year, Aasia Bibi, a Christian woman who was on death row for blasphemy, was acquitted by the Supreme Court. The acquittal had triggered mass protests in Islamabad.

Impartiality in question

Rights groups say minority sections are often targeted by the law. According to Ms. Omer, the Lahore High Court judgment confirming Mr. Hassan’s conviction and death sentence “is rife with anti-Ahmadi sentiment and shows how influenced the judg-

es were by the complainant, Ismail Qureshi, who is praised in the judgment for his role in the mandatory death penalty for blasphemy against the Holy Prophet. Can such judges really be called ‘impartial’?”

No-one has been legally executed in Pakistan for blasphemy. But there have been several violent incidents in the name of blasphemy. In 2013, Junaid Hafeez, an academic, was booked and arrested on blasphemy charges. His lawyer, Rashid Rehman, was threatened after he took Mr. Hafeez’s case and eventually assassinated in Multan. Mr. Hafeez is still in prison.

According to lawyer Asad Jamal, judges of lower courts are considerate in some cases. In a case similar to Aasia Bibi’s [in picture], a trial court acquitted another Christian woman, Rubina Bibi, of blasphemy charges. “If judges of lower courts are assured that the State will provide security, that the High Courts will back them up, then they would be able to give more relief.”



High Court judges, on the other hand, are often reluctant to take bold decisions, he said. “In September 2014, I petitioned the Lahore High Court that Junaid Hafeez’s case should be transferred from Multan to Lahore after Rashid Rehman’s as-

sassination. The court asked why it was necessary. When I mentioned Rehman’s assassination, the then Chief Justice of Lahore High Court said, ‘One is not required to obtain visa to travel to Lahore from Multan’, implying that an assassin could travel to Lahore if he wanted to; therefore, there was no use of transferring the case,” said Mr. Jamal.

Aasia Bibi’s case appears to have set a precedent of resolving cases related to blasphemy. “Now with Wajih Hassan’s case, lawyers may be more confident of a positive outcome,” said academic Umair Javed.

“The unfortunate thing, though, is about the time lapsed due to injustice. This is a larger systematic problem with our justice system. Over the years, blasphemy has become such a volatile and emotional issue that it now has its own political dynamics.” There’s now at least a chance to get justice, “but whether this is a turning point in the blasphemy issue in Pakistan overall remains to be seen,” said Mr. Javed.



Mehmal Sarfraz is a journalist based in Lahore

Capping the refugee intake

The U.S. govt. has limited the number of refugee admits for FY-2020 at 18,000, the lowest since 1980

WASHINGTON

Even as the number of refugees hit 26 million at the end of 2018 – a historic post-war high – the Trump administration has dramatically cut back on the number it is allowing in to the U.S. The administration recently announced a proposal to cap admits in financial year 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) at 18,000, the lowest since the country’s Refugee Act of 1980 was passed.

The stated reason? The administration feels that previous administrations’ refugee policies did not adequately take into account national security or foreign policy concerns. “The previous allocations by continent or region were not directly connected to our national security

or foreign policy priorities,” a senior official told reporters on a September 26 briefing call. “The administration’s proposed allocation links refugee admissions directly to U.S. national security and foreign policy priorities.”

The U.S. also says it has to clear the backlog for asylum applications (i.e., related to those already in the U.S. or presenting themselves at a port of entry) and has decided to combine refugee and asylum counts. The southern border of the U.S. has become the focal point for new asylum claims and the U.S. expects to process 350,000 new asylum cases, as per a September 27 media note from the State Department.

“Indeed, it would be irresponsible for the United States to go abroad seeking large numbers of refugees to resettle when the humanitarian and security crisis along the southern



border already imposes an extraordinary burden on the U.S. immigration system,” the note read.

The administration has also given local governments the right to refuse refugees for resettlement for the first time in history. The U.S. will admit

refugees from priority categories this year rather than accepting them solely from pre-determined regions of the world. First, a quota of up to 5,000 places for those being persecuted for religious beliefs. Second, up to 4,000 places for Iraqis who have helped the U.S. Third, up to 1,500 spots are being reserved for nationals of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The remaining 7,500 of the 18,000 spots are being reserved for categories not covered above, including family reunification cases, the official said.

Backlog for asylum requests

The historically low caps were opposed by religious groups and humanitarian organisations. Critics, *The New York Times* reported, have noted that the backlog for asylum applications occurs in immigration courts whereas refugees are already vetted before they enter the U.S. Some also argued that an asylum backlog should not prevent the U.S. from helping those in need of protec-

tion in other parts of the world.

Roughly half (51%) of Americans said the U.S. had a responsibility to accept refugees, while 43% said it does not, according to a May 2018 Pew Research Center survey. A quarter of Republicans had said the U.S. does have a responsibility to take refugees, while three quarters of Democrats felt that way. A higher proportion of racial minorities, women, and those with higher levels of education said the U.S. had a responsibility to take refugees relative to whites, men and those with lower levels of education.

There are just under 71 million displaced persons worldwide, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Forty-one million of these are internally displaced, 26 million are refugees, and some 3.5 million are asylum seekers. In 2018, some 67% of refugees came from Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia, and 80% of refugees live in countries that neighbour their countries of origin. It is no

surprise then that Turkey has topped the list of host countries for refugees since 2014. Pakistan and Uganda have, at least in the last two years, come in at second and third place, respectively.

The U.S. has, at least since the early 1980s, led the world in accepting refugees. However, soon after Donald Trump assumed office in 2017, he temporarily suspended the resettlement of Syrian refugees along with banning individuals from seven Muslim majority countries from entering the U.S. on most visa categories. Refugee numbers dropped from 85,000 in 2016 to 53,700 in 2017, and the Pew Research Center reports that since 2017, the U.S. has admitted many more Christian refugees than Muslim refugees.

As was discussed in this column earlier, the Trump administration is clamping down on legal and illegal migration to the U.S. The changes to refugee policy, it would appear, are very much in line with this broader theme.



Sriram Lakshman is The Hindu’s Washington correspondent

Hasina’s crusade against corruption

The Bangladesh PM has launched a drive which she says is necessary to address rising inequality

DHAKA

On a muggy September afternoon, roulette players crowded into a sporting club in Dhaka just like another day. Croupiers spun the roulette wheels, but the players were clearly out of luck. The Rapid Action Battalion, known as an elite force, descended on the club, not far from the local police station, and arrested 142 people in a major anti-gambling sweep. With this raid ongoing, a separate team arrested the man behind the gambling ring in another part of the city on September 18 – Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan, an organising secretary of the ruling Awami League’s youth front Jubo League.

As the day wore on, security forces raided three more clubs that oper-

ated slot machines, roulette tables and other gambling equipment in Dhaka, an unlikely place for casinos. The raids offered, for the first time, glimpses into mushrooming clandestine casinos established by people with close ties to the ruling party.

“It was necessary to strike a blow against this corrupt part of our society,” Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said. “We’re continuing the drive against corruption to prevent the recurrence of incidents such as 1/11,” Ms. Hasina said at a news conference in New York on September 29, alluding to the controversial intervention in the civil administration by an Army-led group in 2007. Her comments shed light on the involvement of Jubo League leaders in running illicit gambling facilities. “I brought it upon myself to right the wrong.”

In another startling raid on September 20, the RAB arrested Golam

Kibria Shamim, an influential government-listed contractor who identifies himself as a Jubo League leader, along with his seven bodyguards. Shamim made headlines for his clout over the government’s Public Works Department to secure contracts. The man who used his bodyguards and loud car honks to clear his way through Dhaka traffic was seen in handcuffs in a quick reversal of fortune. His company dealt with at least 22 construction contracts worth around 60 billion taka (₹50 billion). The arrest has now stalled those projects, according to the local media.

Contracts gone wrong

During the raid on his business, law-enforcement officials seized about 20 million taka in cash, 1.75 billion taka worth of savings in fixed deposits, alcohol and firearms from his office. Shamim was initially remanded for 10 days in two separate cases: firearms and money laundering. After the first round of interrogation, the



police took him back into custody for another nine days, securing a new court order.

His case exposes footprints of corruption in government contracts often secured through bribery and political muscle. Bangladesh went down

six steps to the 149th position on the Transparency International’s (TI) latest Corruption Perception Index – the second worst performance after Afghanistan among the eight South Asian nations.

By one estimate, 2-3% of Bangladesh’s GDP is lost to corruption. But TI estimates the losses at 5% of the GDP if large public procurements and corruption in health and education sectors are taken into account.

“When money is transferred from one pocket to another, it may not be directly linked to loss of economic growth. But when a bridge or a building collapses due to poor construction, then it is not only a waste of money and loss of potential output of the economy but also a loss of invaluable human lives,” Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Dhaka-based Centre for Policy Dialogue, wrote in a recent report.

As the crackdown on corruption set off ripples of anxiety, student protests erupted at a university in the district of Gopalganj, about 100

km from the capital, against Vice-Chancellor Khondoker Md Nasiruddin. The teacher who faced a barrage of allegations – from irregularities in student admission and appointment of teachers to corruption in procurement – resigned on September 30.

Ms. Hasina said the anti-corruption drive was necessary to bring equality in society. Inequality in Bangladesh has reached an all-time high. The country’s Gini coefficient, a statistical measure of income inequality, increased to 0.482 in 2016 from 0.458 in 2010. “The nouveau riche creates disparity in society, leaving the children of honest people frustrated. Children are innocent; therefore, they ask their parents – ‘if they can come to school in expensive cars and wear expensive clothes, then why can’t we?’” Ms. Hasina said. There’s a moral hazard associated with corruption.

Ms. Khatun sums it up: “If corruption continues to go unchecked, many get encouraged; others get frustrated and demotivated.”



Arun Devnath is a journalist based in Dhaka

Rohit and Ashwin put India in driver’s seat

South Africa has the onerous task of surviving the final day on a pitch with uneven bounce and turn

SA IN INDIA
S. DINAKAR
VISAKHAPATNAM
Thunderstorms stayed away but it rained sixes here on Saturday.
In a tense Test where South Africa will be defying pressure to survive the final day, the big hits, rather paradoxically, have assumed centrastage.

Sixes record
As many as 14 sixes were struck on day four of the first Freedom Test taking the sixer count in this match to 34, just one adrift of the all-time record.
And the mercurial Rohit Sharma has blasted 13 of them in the game, going past Wasim Akram’s mark of 12.

Yet, this is a surface with rough on both sides, some uneven bounce and turn. Simply put, the bowlers have not been particularly accurate at the ACA-VDCA Stadium.
The South African spinners have been disappointing, erring in length and direction, failing to create the stress with control that leads to wickets, and neither containing nor striking. Worse, catches have been spilled.
Rohit did not complain. His second innings 127 meant he aggregated 303 runs with centuries in each innings of his first Test as an opener.

He was dominant; easing the ball through the gaps with the precision of a sculptor and clearing the field with bat speed, timing and nifty footwork.
Set a target of 395 after India declared its second innings at 323 for four – apart from Rohit’s hundred, Cheteshwar Pujara notched up a fortuitous 81 and a promoted Ravindra Jadeja, a vibrant 40 – South Africa lost its first innings hero, Dean Elgar, trapped leg before by a Jadeja delivery that kept low.
If rain stays away, India could go 1-0 up in the series.



Firing away: Rohit Sharma blasted seven sixes on Saturday for a match total of 13, one more than Wasim Akram’s maximum in a Test. • K.R. DEEPAK

STAT SPHERE

1 India has created a team record for the most number of sixes hit in a Test (27), eclipsing New Zealand’s 22 (vs Pakistan, Sharjah, 2014)

1 Rohit has the most number of sixes in a match by an Indian in all formats –13 in a Test (this match), 16 in an ODI (vs Aus, Bengaluru, 2013) and 10 in a T20I (vs SL, Indore)

5 Ashwin’s seven-fors in a Test innings

7/59 vs NZ, Indore, 2016-17

7/66 vs SA, Nagpur, 2015-16

7/83 vs WI, North Sound, 2016

7/103 vs Aus, Chennai, 2012-13

7/145 vs SA, Visakhapatnam, 2019

6 Rohit becomes the sixth Indian to register hundreds in both innings of a Test

- Hazare
- Gavaskar (3 times)
- Dravid (twice)
- Kohli
- Rahane
- Rohit

7 Number of consecutive 50-plus scores in India by Rohit, the most by a batsman. Weeks, Dravid and Andy Flower have six each

13 Number of sixes hit by Rohit (6+7), the maximum in a Test, edging past Akram’s 12 in an innings (vs Zim, Sheikhpura 1996-97). Sidhu’s eight sixes (single innings, vs SL, Lucknow, 1994) is the next best by an Indian

1 Rohit is the first Indian batsman to get out stumped twice in the same Test. He hadn’t been dismissed in this fashion even once in his 137 previous First Class innings

R. Ashwin, who scalped seven in the first innings, will present a major challenge to the Proteas with his variations.
For the host, Rohit once again sizzled after Mayank Agarwal edged a delivery spinning away from left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj for Faf du Plessis to take a sharp catch in the slips.

Rohit picks the length early and plays the ball late. And he manipulates the field with his strokeplay where the wrists are employed in a nuanced manner.
When he stood outside the crease to negate Vernon Philander’s swing, ‘keeper Quinton de Kock came up, and the bowler was taken out of his comfort zone.

Pujara, seeking runs, had the luck of a cat. He was relieved thrice before 10, all off Dane Piedt’s off-spin, twice by de Kock – he failed to hold a nick and muffed up a stumping – and by Aiden Markram at short-leg.
Then when the impressive Kagiso Rabada forced an edge from Pujara with an away-going delivery, a diving

SCOREBOARD	
INDIA – 1ST INNINGS 502 for seven decl. SOUTH AFRICA – 1ST INNINGS Dean Elgar c Pujara b Jadeja 160 (287b, 18x4, 4x6), Aiden Markram b Ashwin 5 (21b, 1x4), Theunis de Bruyn c Saha b Ashwin 4 (25b, 1x4), Dane Piedt b Jadeja 0 (4b), Temba Bavuma lbw b Ishant 18 (26b, 3x4), Faf du Plessis c Pujara b Ashwin 55 (103b, 8x4, 1x6), Quinton de Kock b Ashwin 111 (163b, 16x4, 2x6), Senuran Muthusamy (not out) 33 (106b, 4x4), Vernon Philander b Ashwin 0 (10b), Keshav Maharaj c Agarwal b Ashwin 9 (31b, 1x4), Kagiso Rabada lbw b Ashwin 15 (17b, 3x4); Extras (b-12, lb-4, nb-5): 21. Total (in 131.2 overs): 431. FALL OF WICKETS 1-14 (Markram, 7.1 overs), 2-31 (de Bruyn, 16.3), 3-34 (Piedt, 17.3), 4-63 (Bavuma, 26.1), 5-178 (du Plessis, 57.3), 6-342 (Elgar, 99.3), 7-370 (de Kock, 109.3), 8-376 (Philander, 113.2), 9-396 (Maharaj, 123.4). INDIA BOWLING Ishant 16-2-54-1, Shami 18-4-47-0, Ashwin 46.2-11-145-7, Jadeja 40-5-124-2, Vihari 9-1-38-0, Rohit 2-1-7-0.	INDIA – 2ND INNINGS Mayank Agarwal c du Plessis b Maharaj 7 (31b, 1x4), Rohit Sharma st de Kock b Maharaj 127 (149b, 10x4, 7x6), Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Philander 81 (148b, 13x4, 2x6), Ravindra Jadeja b Rabada 40 (32b, 3x6), Virat Kohli (not out) 31 (25b, 3x4, 1x6), Ajinkya Rahane (not out) 27 (17b, 4x4, 1x6); Extras (b-8, lb-2): 10. Total (for four wkts. decl. in 67 overs): 323. FALL OF WICKETS 1-21 (Mayank, 7.6), 2-190 (Pujara, 50.6), 3-239 (Rohit, 56.5), 4-286 (Jadeja, 62.5). SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING Philander 12-5-21-1, Maharaj 22-0-129-2, Rabada 13-3-41-1, Piedt 17-3-102-0, Muthusamy 3-0-20-0. SOUTH AFRICA – 2ND INNINGS Aiden Markram (batting) 3 (18b), Dean Elgar lbw b Jadeja 2 (16b), Theunis de Bruyn (batting) 5 (20b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1): 1. Total (for one wkt. in nine overs): 11. FALL OF WICKET 1-4 (Elgar, 3.3). INDIA BOWLING Ashwin 5-2-7-0, Jadeja 4-2-3-1.



de Kock, having a horror day, failed to hold on.
Pujara cashed in and did essay some sparkling shots in keeping with the team’s needs. His square-cuts flashed to the fence. He danced down to the spinners for the whips, the lofted on-drives, the off and cover-drives.
Finally Philander trapped Pujara leg-before with a delivery that held its line.

‘Always enjoy challenges’

Pujara on the duel with Rabada

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM
Revealing why India declared late on day four, senior batsman Cheteshwar Pujara said: “We did not want to bowl too many overs because we wanted to keep the ball hard for the start of day five.
“You don’t want to end up bowling too many overs. Once the ball gets soft it is slightly easier to bat. We picked up a crucial wicket so as a team we are happy with the way things went today. There are cracks on the pitch and variable bounce.”
About the exchange of words with fast bowler Kagiso Rabada, Pujara said, “It is always like that when you are facing a fast bowler. There was nothing personal. I always enjoy such challenges, they motivate me to bat well. When the fast bowlers are running in and things don’t go their way, they do get frustrated.”
On Rohit Sharma’s batting, Pujara said, “He batted really well in the first innings, but to play all those strokes that he did on this wicket in the second innings was special. That 169-run partnership between us today was crucial. Our communication was good as we have batted together since our under-19 days. It was a joy to watch him from the non-striker’s end.”
Weighing in on all those sixes from Rohit, Pujara said, “Hitting sixes is his strength, he is incredible. As a Test batsman who wants to improve his ODI and T20 cricket, there is a lot to learn from him.”
South Africa’s Vernon Philander said, “There is a bit there for the spinners but in saying that we batted 130 overs in the first innings. So they had to make sure they got enough runs on board first of all. No game is a safe game. It’s a good wicket, the batters are in good form and hopefully we can get a good start tomorrow.”
Philander sounded a warning. “I still think we are in with a shot. Hopefully we come ready, bat well and take it real close.”
About the surface, Philander said, “I think the last time we came here, the wickets were a lot worse. I think we can bat one whole day, like their batters showed today. Rohit got in and got a good hundred, so hopefully two of our guys can get in and get big hundreds.”
Whether Rohit could succeed as an opener abroad, Philander said, “I think it’s difficult to compare when you play at home to when you play abroad, it’s a different ball game.”



Key man: R. Ashwin, who scalped seven in the first innings, will look to have a say on the final day. • K.R. DEEPAK

IN BRIEF



Hardik undergoes back surgery
NEW DELHI
All-rounder Hardik Pandya underwent successful surgery in London for an acute lower-back injury. “Surgery done successfully. Extremely grateful to everyone for your wishes. Will be back in no time! Till then miss me,” Hardik posted a message with a picture on his Instagram account on Saturday. Hardik is expected to be out of action for five months. PTI

Sri Lanka shocks Pakistan in opening T20I

LAHORE
An inexperienced Sri Lanka stunned Pakistan by 64 runs in the first Twenty20 International here on Saturday, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Sri Lanka scored 165 for five in its 20 overs with Danushka Gunathilaka scoring 57 off 38 balls, while teenage Pakistan paceman Mohammad Hasnain took a hat-trick. In reply, Pakistan was bowled out for 101 in 17.4 overs.
The scores: Sri Lanka 165 for five in 20 overs (D. Gunathilaka 57, A. Fernando 33, B. Rajapaksa 32, Hasnain three for 37) bt Pakistan 101 in 17.4 overs (Sarfaraz Ahmed 24, Iftikhar Ahmed 25, Pradeep three for 21, Udana three for 11, Hasaranga two for 20). **Toss:** Pakistan.

Yodha moves into playoffs

GREATER NOIDA
UP Yodha thrashed Dabang Delhi 50-33 to enter the playoffs of the ProKabaddi League (PKL) on Saturday. Monu Goyat, with 11 raid points, was the star for the UP side.
The results: Saturday: UP Yodha bt Dabang Delhi 50-33. **Friday:** Jaipur Pink Panthers bt Bengaluru Bulls 41-34; Haryana Steelers bt Telugu Titans 52-32. PTI

Gardiner in cruise mode



For you, my country! Steven Gardiner of Bahamas wins the 400m final. • AFP



Steven Gardiner, who powered to the 400m title on Friday, dedicated his triumph to the people of the Bahamas after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Dorian last month.
The 24-year-old, a silver medalist in 2017, timed a National record of 43.48 seconds and said thoughts of the damage and loss of life caused by Dorian were in his mind before the race.

The results:
Men: Shot put: 1. Joe Kovacs (USA) 3:51.22.91m, 2. Ryan Crouser (USA) 22.90, 3. Tomas Walsh (NZL) 22.90.
400m: 1. Steven Gardiner (Bah)

43.48s; 2. Anthony Zambrano (Col) 44.15; 3. Fred Kerley (USA) 44.17. **20km walk:** 1. Toshikazu Yamanishi (Jpn) 1:26:34s; 2. Vasilij Mizinov (ANA) 1:26:49; 3. Perseus Karlstrom (Swe) 1:27:00. **3000m steeplechase:** 1. Conselus Kipruto (Ken) 8:01.35s; 2. Lamecha Girma (Eth) 8:01.36; 3. Soufiane El Bakkali (MAR) 8:03.76. **High jump:** 1. Mutaz Essa Barshim (Brn) 2.37m; 2. Mikhail Akimenko (ANA) 2.35; 3. Ilya Ivanyuk (ANA) 2.35.

Women: 1500m: 1. Sifan Hassan (Ned) 3:51.95 (CR), 2. Faith Kipyegon (Ken) 3:54.22, 3. Gudaf Tsegay (Eth) 3:54.38. **5000m:** 1. Hellen Obiri (Ken) 14:26.72 (CR), 2. Margaret Chemlir Kipkemboi (Ken) 14:27.49, 3. Konstanze Klosterhalfen (Ger) 14:28.43. **Discus:** 1. Yaima Perez (Cub) 69.17m; 2. Denia Caballero (Cub) 68.44; 3. Sandra Perkovic (Cro) 66.72.

Sable books Tokyo berth

SPORTS BUREAU DOHA

Avinash Sable came up with a National record (8:21.37s) as he finished 13th in the men’s 3000m steeplechase on Friday. That time also saw him qualify for next year’s Tokyo Olympics (entry standard 8:22.00s). His previous National record – 8:25.23 – had come in the heats earlier.
The Indian women’s 4x400m relay team, comprising Jisna Mathew, M.R. Poovamma, V.K. Vismaya

and V. Subha, clocked a season-best 3:29.42s as it finished sixth (11th overall) in the semifinal and failed to qualify for the final.
The men too failed to make the cut, finishing seventh (13th overall) in their mile relay heats clocking 3:03.09s. Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas, K.S. Jeevan and Noah Nirmal Tom ran the relay. In men’s javelin, Shival Singh’s best of 78.97m in the qualification round saw him finish 10th in his group and 24th overall.

Women’s fielding coach out?

P.K. AJITH KUMAR SURAT

Many things have changed for the better in Indian women’s cricket. Among the most noticeable ones is fielding.

This was evident during the T20I series against South Africa that concluded on Friday. The ground fielding and catching of the Women in Blue were of high standard.
However, the fielding coach Biju George, who could understandably take credit for the dramatic improvement the players have made over the past couple of years, is set to be relieved of his duties at the end of the month.

The Hindu has reliably learnt that the BCCI is unlikely to renew Biju’s two-year contract, though



Biju George.

there is an option to extend it. With CoA member and former Indian women’s captain Diana Eduljee insisting that the women’s team too needs full-time support staff, the BCCI could soon be looking for a fielding coach.
This, when the T20 World Cup in Australia is just four months away.

Pacers prove too hot for Kings

NBA INDIA GAMES

NANDAKUMAR MARAR MUMBAI
Indiana Pacers dealt Sacramento Kings its second loss in back-to-back pre-season ties at the NBA India Games 2019, played in front of another full house at the NSCI indoor stadium on Saturday.

For Pacers, finesse and composure in ball possession came through in the first three quarters, a change from the passion and adrenalin seen in Friday’s game. Both teams went all-out in the last quarter before Pacers won 130-106.

Pacers, having won by a solitary point in the first pre-season game in overtime, led from the second quarter. The frenzied surge ahead on the turnovers in the first game was replaced by a con-



Tough to stop: Pacers’ Doug McDermott goes for a basket during game two against Kings. • VIVEK BENDRE

trolled build-up.

Fans witnessed ball-handling of the highest quality, sublime long-range shooting and slick passing made for a bold statement about the quality on show when the

season starts.

The result: Indiana Pacers 130 (Alize Johnson 17, Aaron Holiday 16, Jakaar Sampson 15, Justin Holiday 14) bt Sacramento Kings 106 (Marvin Bagley 15, Buddy Hield 17, Yogi Ferrell 12).

Liverpool takes full points with last-gasp penalty

Hazard off the mark as Real increases lead at the top of La Liga

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS LIVERPOOL

A stoppage-time penalty from James Milner earned Liverpool a dramatic 2-1 victory over Leicester City at Anfield on Saturday, maintaining the league leaders’ 100% start to the Premier League season.

However, Sadio Mane brilliantly slotted home his 50th league goal for the club to break the deadlock in the 40th minute.
Mane and Mohamed Salah were guilty of poor finishing, and their profligacy looked to have cost their side as James Maddison equalised with 10 minutes left.

However, the drama was not over, as Mane was brought down in the box



Ice-cool: James Milner kept his composure as he converted the spot-kick. • REUTERS

and Milner converted the penalty.

Entertaining

Eden Hazard finally scored his first goal for Real Madrid as his side beat second-

placed Granada 4-2 in a highly entertaining game on Saturday to go four points clear at the top of La Liga.

Karim Benzema put Real ahead in the second minute after an incisive pass from

Gareth Bale, while Hazard lobbed Granada keeper Rui Silva at the end of the first half.

The Belgian turned provided for Real’s third goal, cutting in from the left wing and laying the ball off for Luka Modric to drill into the top corner in the 61st minute.

Real sealed the win with a goal in stoppage-time from substitute James Rodriguez, moving on to 18 points after eight games.

The results: Premier League: Brighton 3 (Maupay 3, Connolly 32, 65) bt Tottenham 0; Burnley 1 (Hendrick 72) bt Everton 0; Norwich 1 (Ormic 87) lost to Aston Villa 5 (Wesley 14, 30, Grealish 49, Hourihane 61, Douglas Luiz 83); Watford 0 drew with Sheffield United 0; Liverpool 2 (Mane 40, Milner 90+5-pen) bt Leicester 1 (Maddison 80).

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 1 (Lewandowski 73) lost to Hoffenheim 2 (Adamyan 54, 79); Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Volland 66) drew with RB Leipzig 1 (Nkunku 78); Freiburg 2 (Waldschmidt 55, Akanji 90-og) drew with Borussia Dortmund 2 (Witsel 20, Kuebler 67-og); Paderborn 1 (Zolinski 14) lost to Mainz 2 (Quaison 8, Brosinski 32-pen).

Serie A: SPAL 1 (Petagna 31) bt Parma 0.

La Liga: Leganes 1 (Braithwaite 76) lost to Levante 2 (Roger 45+2-pen, Campana 48); Real Madrid 4 (Benzema 2, Hazard 45+1, Modric 61, Rodriguez 90+2) bt Granada 2 (Machis 69-pen, Duarte 77).

Friday: La Liga: Real Betis 1 (Loren 66) drew with Eibar 1 (Orellana 34-pen).

Bundesliga: Hertha Berlin 3 (Ibisevic 37, Dilrosun 44, Darida 62) bt Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Hennings 32).

TV PICKS

India vs South Africa: 1st Test, fifth day, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Rugby World Cup: Sony Six (SD & HD), 10 a.m.
Hero Women's Indian Open golf: DSport, Noon
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 4 p.m., 6.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.
Premier League: Star Sports Select 1 & Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.20 p.m. & 8.40 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
IAAF World Championships: Star Sports 3 & Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

NE members to meet after Dasara

G. VISWANATH MUMBAI

Representatives of the six north-east States – Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram – will meet after Dasara to discuss matters related to the BCCI Annual General Meeting and election to be held here on October 23.

For the first time these States will attend the BCCI AGM as full members.

“That’s the reason we have approached the Supreme Court asking the cooling off period to be applied prospectively, not retrospectively. We were either associate or affiliate members. We will pursue the case,” said North-East Cricket Development Committee convenor Naba Bhattacharjee.

The six States became full members on the basis of the Justice Lodha Reforms rule ‘one State, one member, one vote’.

“We will meet after Dasara. We are all together. About the election, we have not heard from anyone, we have not received any feelers,” said Bhattacharjee.

Indians in ASBC commissions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BADDI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

Altogether seven boxing aficionados from the country have made it to various commissions of the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC).

As per the new list of commissions released by the continental body, Kishen Narsi is heading ASBC’s 13-member competitions commission while Hemanta Kumar Kalita is a member of the youth commission.

High performance director Santiago Nieva is part of the coaches commission.

Narendra Kumar Nirwan is a member of the refereeing and judging commission, while Dr. Karanjeet Singh has been named in the five-member medical commission.

Priti Bariya (women’s commission) and Digvijay Singh (marketing commission) are the others to represent India.

Poonacha and Sowjanya triumph

Madhwin and Rashmikaa win junior boys’ and girls’ titles



Champions: Top seeds Niki Poonacha and Sowjanya Bavisetti won the men's and women's titles at the Fenesta National tennis championship. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NATL. TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

Niki Poonacha and Sowjanya Bavisetti asserted themselves as the No.1 seeds in winning the men’s and women’s titles in the Fenesta National tennis championship here on Saturday.

The 24-year-old Poonacha, tall and wiry, rode on his better athleticism and forceful game to beat second seed Aryan Goveas 6-2, 7-6 (4), while Sowjanya beat four-time champion Perna Bhambri 6-4, 6-2.

It was high quality entertainment for tennis enthusiasts assembled in strength.

“It is a dream for me to win the National championship,” said Poonacha.

“Niki has a big game. The national title should give him the confidence to [believe] what I have been constantly telling him... that he has the game to win big,” said Rohan Bopanna, who watched the final through live streaming.

For Sowjanya, it was confirmation of her ability to stroke with intelligence and punch.

Perna made a fight of it, twice breaking back in the first set, but Sowjanya did

not let the fight linger for long. The key to the contest was winning the first set, and Sowjanya did that at 6-4, scotching the revival, after having led 5-1.

Both champions made it a point to thank physio Anand Dubey for making it possible for them to play and win. Poonacha was being treated for a lower back strain through the week, while Sowjanya had to address a sprained neck every day.

The champions collected ₹3,00,000 each and the runners-up were presented ₹2,00,000 each.

The Chairman and Managing Director of DCM Shriram group, Ajay Shriram, congratulated the champions and thanked the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and its life president Anil Khanna, for the bond spanning more than 25 years.

Madhwin Kamath and Rashmikaa Shrivalli Bhamidipaty won the junior boys’ and girls’ titles.

The results (finals):
Men: Niki Poonacha bt Aryan Goveas 6-2, 7-6(4). **Women:** Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Perna Bhambri 6-4, 6-2. **Under-18: Boys:** Madhwin Kamath bt Udit Gogoi 6-2, 7-6(1). **Girls:** Rashmikaa Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Sandeepthi Singh Rao 6-0, 6-4.

‘Looking forward to launch Sania 2.0’

Aiming for comeback at Australian Open

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

Sania Mirza is an inspiration for Indian sports, tennis in particular. “I have been coming to this tournament for nearly 20 years. It is nostalgic for me,” said Sania as she addressed the gathering at the presentation function of the Fenesta National tennis championship, where a special book, commemorating the 25 editions hosted by DCM Shriram Group, was launched.

Sania had herself competed in the event and had won the women’s doubles title as a 14-year-old with Ankita Bhambri and had also won the mixed doubles with Rohan Bopanna.

“The national championship is very special to win. We used to prepare through the year for this. People need to understand its importance. Sunil Kumar won it as a 16-year-old, and it was a great stepping stone for his career,” recalled Sania.

Sania – attempting to relaunch her career after child birth, with the Australian Open – said, “I started my career here, and I am looking forward to launch Sania 2.0 now.” She also said that



Sania. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

she was training four to five hours every day to regain her fitness.

Sania also expressed her pleasure with Sumit Nagal’s progress – he has reached a career-best rank of 135 – and complimented Mahesh Bhupathi for backing the youngster. Even as she praised Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi, she hoped that they would make it to the next level soon, as they were not getting younger.

About her advice for those aspiring to follow her footsteps on the Grand Slam stage, Sania said, “They need to have a good team. I know that Karman has a good team. She has been injured for about five months. I really feel that she has it in her.”

Christine Wolf takes a one-stroke lead

Tvesa Malik and Anika Varma at tied ninth

INDIAN OPEN

ANANT KAUR GURUGRAM

A final-hole birdie for a bogey-free five-under 67 gave Austria’s Christine Wolf a one-stroke lead at 208 after three rounds of the Hero Women’s Indian Open at the DLF Golf Course and Country Club here on Saturday.

Tied third on Friday, England’s Meghan MacLaren moved to second following a 69. Overnight leader Australia’s Whitney Hillier (72) and second-placed Norway’s Marianne Skarpnord (71) were tied third at 210.

Home talents Tvesa Malik and amateur Anika Varma

shot 71 and 67 respectively to be tied ninth at 215.

Impressive start
Tvesa started impressively but double-bogeyed the 13th hole. She immediately recovered with a birdie on the next one.

Fifteen-year-old Anika built on a good start for six birdies.

Wolf, notably nervous at the start, stuck to her game plan. She putted well and made more pars. After the turn, she birdied four times to take the lead.

Among the Indians, Vani Kapoor, Amandeep Drall, Astha Madan, Gaurika Bishnoi, Diksha Dagar, Pranavi Urs, Seher Atwal, and Jahnavi



Doing it right: Christine Wolf putted well, made several pars and after the turn, birdied four times. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vi Bakshi were looking for an improved finish.

Third round scores: 208 Christine Wolf (Aut) (73, 68, 67); 209 Meghan MacLaren (Eng) (67, 73, 69); 210 Mariaane

Skarpnord (Nor) (68, 71, 71) and Whitney Hillier (Aus) (67, 71, 72); 211 Tonje Daffinrud (Nor) (73, 70, 68); 215 Tvesa Malik (Ind) (72, 72, 71), and Anika Varma (Ind) (76, 72, 67).

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Gaur wins title
GURUGRAM: Abhishek Gaur beat Yugal Bansal in the final of the ₹100,000 AITA men’s ranking tennis tournament organised by Pradhan Tennis Academy.

The final was postponed and held the following week, as the players were busy with the qualifying event of the Fenesta National championship.

The results (final): Abhishek Gaur bt Yugal Bansal 7-5, 2-1 (conceded); **Semifinals:** Yugal Bansal bt Pradeep Deswal 6-0, 6-1; Abhishek Gaur bt Kavish Kathuria 7-5, 6-4.

Ishaque, Nitin and Mohit in the fray
CHANDIGARH: Ishaque Eqbal,

former Asian junior champion Nitin Kumar Sinha and former National champion Mohit Mayur will be some of the leading players competing in the ₹2.5 lakh Tribune AITA-ranking tennis tournament here from Monday.

Four-time National champion Perna Bhambri will be the top seed in the women’s section, which will offer a total prize purse of ₹100,000. Kashish Bhatia and Arthi Muniyar will be some of the other top players taking part.

In the qualification matches on Saturday, Krishan Hooda and Udayayir Singh reached the third round of the men’s

event. They were joined by Dhananjay Singh, Neeraj Yashpaul and Shashikant Rajput.

Mohak, Gulshan star for RRG
NEW DELHI: Mohak Datta (five for 17) and Gulshan Singh (75 not out) enabled Rohtak Road Gymkhana (RRG) defeated Friends CC by 10 wickets to enter the semifinals of the 12th Pelicans (under-16) cricket tournament.

The scores:
Friends CC 114 in 31.1 overs (Mohak Datta five for 17) lost to RRG 115 for no loss in 10.2 overs (Gulshan Singh 75 n.o.).

David Hussey is KKR’s chief mentor

Kyle Mills roped in as the bowling coach

IPL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders on Saturday announced the appointment of former Australia all-rounder David Hussey as the team’s chief mentor ahead of the next edition of the IPL.

Former New Zealand pacer Kyle Mills was named bowling coach. The two will work with former wicket-keeper-batsman Brendon McCullum, who will be head coach.

Hussey and McCullum played for KKR from the inaugural season in 2008 till 2010. Hussey, who played over 300 T20s in international and franchise tournaments combined, will be assisting his former KKR teammate in forming the new think tank following the departure of South African great Jacques Kallis, who was the head coach till the last season.

Mills, who retired in 2015 as New Zealand’s second highest ODI wicket-taker with 240 wickets, replaces former Zimbabwe pacer



David Hussey. • GETTY IMAGES

Heath Streak.

“It is great to welcome David Hussey and Kyle Mills to the Kolkata Knight Riders family,” KKR CEO and MD Venky Mysore said in a statement.

Winning start for Ajay Pendor

Krushanvir beats Arun Verma via disqualification

NATL. BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI BADDI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

Ajay Pendor made a bright start on his debut in the National boxing championships by upsetting the experienced Govind Kumar Sahani in a 49kg bout at the Baddi University of Emerging Sciences and Technology here on Saturday.

Pendor, a three-time gold medal winner in School National Games and a silver medalist in Khelo India Games, showed his tenacity in winning a 3-0 verdict.

While Sahani, representing Nagaland, boxed aggressively, 18-year-old Pendor showed his steely resolve. The tribal boy from Akola, Maharashtra, changed his game plan after receiving deep cuts on both eyebrows.



Aggressive: Krushanvir Singh’s, left, attacking play unnerved Arun Verma. • AKHILESH KUMAR

He boxed from a distance and scored through a combination of three punches.

“I had doubts before the start of the bout, but my fear went away once I entered the ring. I had to adapt as per the requirement. I am happy to have overcome a big hurdle in the first round,” said Pendor.

In another interesting 49kg bout, Krushanvir Singh, a Haryana origin boxer from Daman and Diu, showcased his superb attacking game to beat Arun Verma of Haryana through ‘disqualification’.

Krushanvir’s flurry of punches baffled Verma, who dropped his teeth guard five

times including thrice in the second round. The referee penalised Verma after he dropped the teeth guard in the third round and awarded the bout to Krushanvir.

Other important results (preliminary rounds): 49kg: Vinod Tanwar (SSCB) bt Heli Tana Tara (Aru) 5-0; Sonu Dhull (RSPB) bt Kakarla Govind (AP) 5-0; Vipin Kumar (Chd) bt Shiv Kant (Pun) 3-2; Amrit Lal Satnam (MP) bt Rishi Kumar (Raj) 3-0; Suraj Soy (Jha) bt Mohd. Zaheed (Tel) 4-1.

52kg: Parshotam (Har) bt Amal Uday (Ker) 5-0; Rahul Niltu (HP) bt G. Vamsi (AP) 5-0; P.L. Prasad (SSCB) bt Shanborlang Marbaniang (Meg) 5-0; Manish Sahu (Cht) bt Ravi Yadav (Raj) 3-2.

91kg: Naman Tanwar (RSPB) bt Ashish Bhandor (HP) 5-0; Sumit Sangwan (Har) bt Rizwan Ahmed (Guj) RSC-R1.

+91kg: Naveen (Har) bt Reynold Joseph (Mah) 5-0.

Rakshitta, Praggnanandhaa, Ghosh stay ahead

WORLD YOUTH CHESS

RAKESH RAO MUMBAI

Second seeds Rakshitta Ravi and R. Praggnanandhaa stayed in the lead in their sections as Indians continued to be among the front-runners in most categories after five rounds of World Youth chess championship here on Saturday.

Rakshitta, playing black, nailed seventh seed Varvara Poliakova of Belarus to take her tally to 4.5 points in the girls’ under-14 section. Dhyana Patel did well to hold fourth seeded Russian Ekaterina Nasyrova. Top seed Divya Deshmukh made short work of Aanya Agarwal to reach 3.5 points.

In under-18 section, a triumph over Arjun Kalyan put Praggnanandhaa (4.5 points) a point ahead of favourite Shant Sargsyan. The Arme-



Rakshitta Ravi.

nian claimed a three-fold repetition of moves leading to a draw against a better-placed R.K. Srihari.

Among the girls in under-18, A. Harshini blew away a winning position and settled for a draw against second seeded Mongolian Turmunkh Munkhzul.

In the under-16 section, Aronyak Ghosh stayed the lead at 4.5 points after holding fellow-overnight leader and Russian International

Master Rudik Makarian. Kushgra Mohan (3.5) held second seeded Georgian Nikoloz Kacharava.

Overnight Under-14 leader L.R. Srihari suffered his first loss after running into third seeded Azerbaijanian Aydin Suleymanli.

Important fifth-round results (Indians unless stated): **Under-18:** R. Praggnanandhaa (4.5) bt Arjun Kalyan (3.5); Aryan Gholami (Iri, 4.5) bt Viaslaslau Zarubitski (Blr, 3.5); Aditya Mittal (4) drew with P. Iniyani (3.5); Shant Sargsyan (Arm, 3.5) drew with R.K. Srihari (3); Mitrabha Guha (3.5) drew with Viktor Gazik (Svk, 3.5).

Under-16: Aronyak Ghosh (4.5) drew with Rudik Makarian (Rus, 4.5); Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 4) drew with Stefan Pogoyan (Rus, 4); Arash Daghti (Iri, 4.5) bt Moksh Doshi (3.5); Kushagra Mohan (3.5) drew with Nikolozzi Kacharava (Geo, 3.5).

Under-14: Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 4.5) bt L. R. Srihari (4); Pranav Anand (4.5) bt Sebas-

tian Poltorak (Pol, 3.5); Manish Kumar (3.5) lost to Aditya Samant (4.5); R. Abhinandan (4) drew with Alex Kolay (USA, 4); M. Sreeshwan (4) bt Khoi Pham (Ned, 3).

Girls’ Under-18: Honorata Kusharska (Pol, 4) drew with Viktoria Radeva (Bul, 4); A. Harshini (3.5) drew with Turmunkh Munkhzul (Mgl, 3.5); Zala Urh (Slo, 3.5) drew with Vantika Agarwal (3); Assel Serikbay (Kaz, 3.5) drew with Tarihi Goyal (2.5); Srishti Pandey (2.5) lost to Aashna Makhikha (3.5).

Under-16: Mrudul Dehankar (3) lost to B. Mounika Akshaya (4); Alessia-Mikaela Ciolacu (Rou, 4) bt C. Lakshmi (3); Saina Saloni (4) bt Anjum Noshin (Ban, 3).

Under-14: Varvara Poliakova (Blr, 3.5) lost to Rakshitta Ravi (4.5); Ekaterina Nasyrova (Rus, 4) drew with Dhyana Patel (4); Bhagyashree Patil (3.5) drew with Ema Obada (Rou, 3.5); Parvian Ghomi (Iri, 3) lost to V. Sarayu (4); Divya Deshmukh (3.5) bt Aanya Agrawal (2.5).